

AN
EYE-N-APPLE
PRODUCTION

SHEA AND
WILSON'S

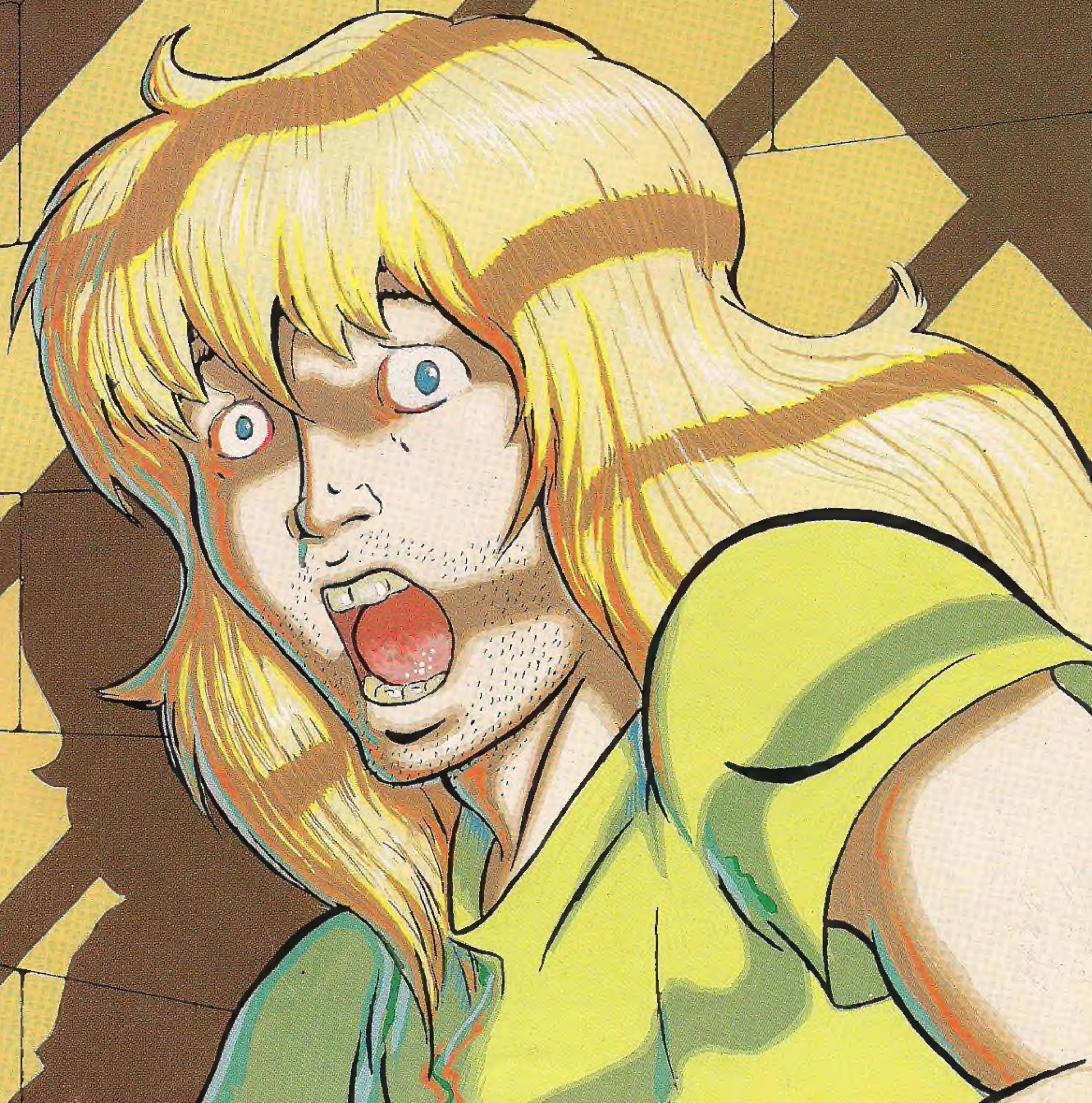
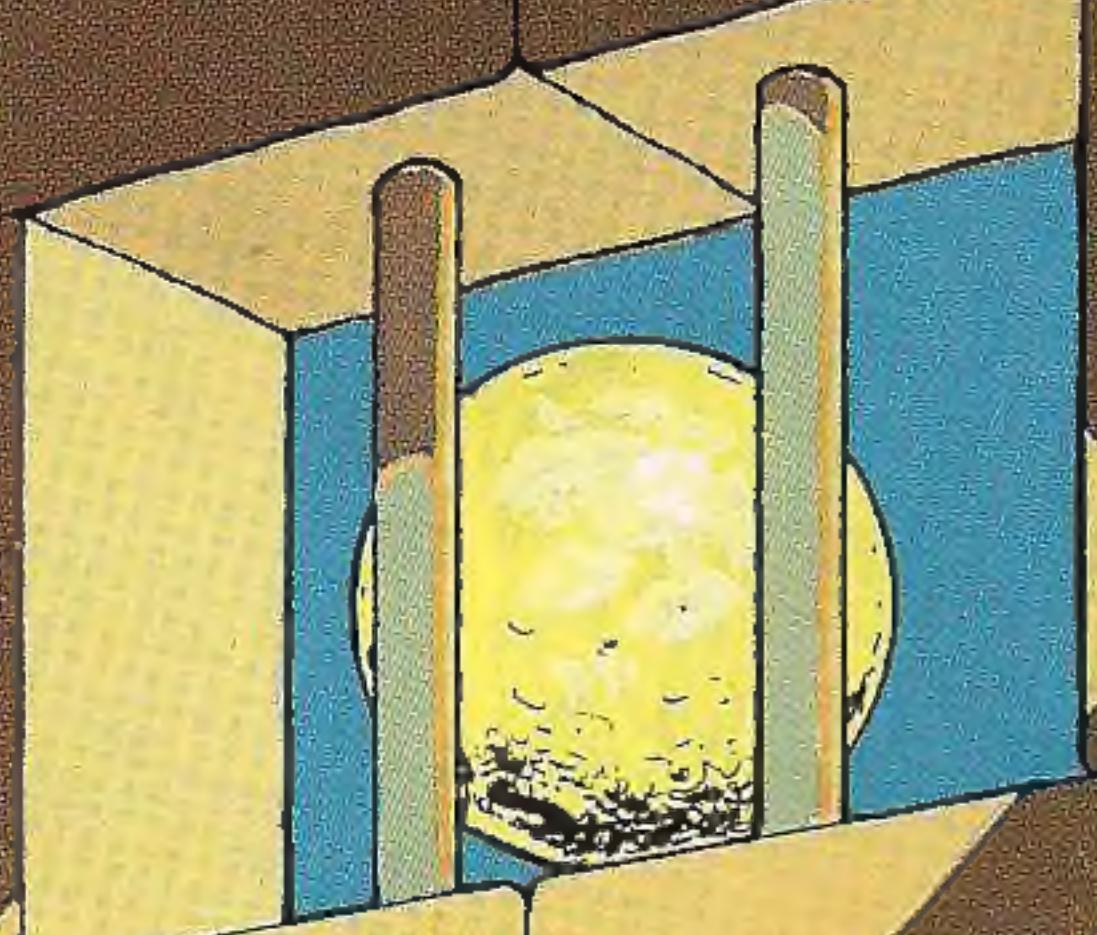
MATURE
READERS

\$2.50
\$3.50
IN CANADA



PUBLISHED
BY RIP OFF
PRESS, INC.

ILLUMINATUS!





PO Box 1583, Kalamazoo, MI 49005

Welcome back, my friends, to the show that never ends! Welcome to the new first issue of *Illuminatus!*, the original classic of conspiracies and paranoia.

For those of you who just joined us, the original *Illuminatus! #1* came out in July of 1987, just in time for the black and white bust. It was well received, but economic factors precluded our continuing the title on a self-publishing basis.

Now, thanks to the folks at Rip Off Press (thanks, Mom!), you can look forward to seeing us on a bi-monthly basis for the next 2 1/2 years!

Those of you who picked up the original #1 may notice a few differences...about half the book has been entirely redone, and considerable touch-ups to the remaining pages give this new incarnation a quite different look than the original...different and better, I hope.

Now, before we get too further along, let's take a look at some of the comments on the original #1:

LETTERS

Hail Eris!

I've been waiting for this comic for years and now I've finally been sated. I'd love to go on and on about how much I enjoyed the first issue, but we all know what happens to people who talk about the Illuminati, don't we?

Keep up the good work, and for Kallisti's sake I hope the publication schedule can be maintained at a better than "irregular" basis in the near future.

Don't eat any golden apples, keep the Leif Erikson sailing and listen to the mgt; he's a smart fella.

All Hail Discordia,
The Little Deluded Duples
23 Kallisti St.
Mad Dog, TX 23517

P.S.: Dutch Flegenheimer says, "Dash those Kim before they do, kiddies!"

We'll be striving to maintain a bi-monthly frequency, now that we've found our new home. The entire adaptation is scheduled for fifteen issues, after which...

Eye-N-Apple,

I've read almost all of RA Wilson's factual books, but none of his fiction. You better believe I'm going to get the *Illuminatus!* book after reading the first issue of *Illuminatus!*; I'm sure the book is very complicated and I think you did a great job translating it into a comic book version.

I was also blown away to find out that there were other pantheists in this (the Midwest) area. Can't wait to get in touch with some of them.

Enclosed is \$2.00 for *Illuminatus! #2*. I don't remember how much the first one was because I let others read it after I got the addresses out of the back. If more people would read *Prometheus Rising*, *Cosmic Trigger* or *Scientific Inquisition*, well—it sure explained things for me.

Are you familiar with *Psychedelic Monographs & Essays*? It's like *High Frontiers*, but better. A friend of mine named Thomas Lytle puts it out. The second issue should be out soon—and should be something. Tom is pretty much of an expert on drug-related religions, like the Coptic Church in Florida, and many more.

Thomas Lytle
C/O P.M. & E.
624 NE 12th Ave., Apt. #1
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304-
2828

Ask Tom about P.M. & E.—you'll both be glad you did.

I hope sales are brisk enough that you'll do *Schrodinger's Cat* next, or one of your own ideas.

Write anytime; thanks for your work.

S.W.,
Allendale, IL

S., thanks for the praise. I've read much (not all) of both the fiction and fact from Wilson, and am still finding new things there.

Continued on page 31...

The Purple Sage opened his mouth & moved his tongue & so spake to them and he said:

THE EARTH QUAKES...

AND THE HEAVENS RATTLE...

THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD IS THE HISTORY OF WARFARE OF SECRET SOCIETIES.

—ISHMAEL REED MUMBO JUMBO

...THE BEASTS OF NATURE FLOCK TOGETHER...

ADAPTATION & EDITING:

CARUS!
PENCILS & LAYOUT:
ERIC D. BURIA

INKING: JEFFRO
ANTITHESIS & THE
ERISIAN FIASCO
LETTERING: THE
RISING MOJOS

...AND THE NATIONS OF MAN FLOCK APART...



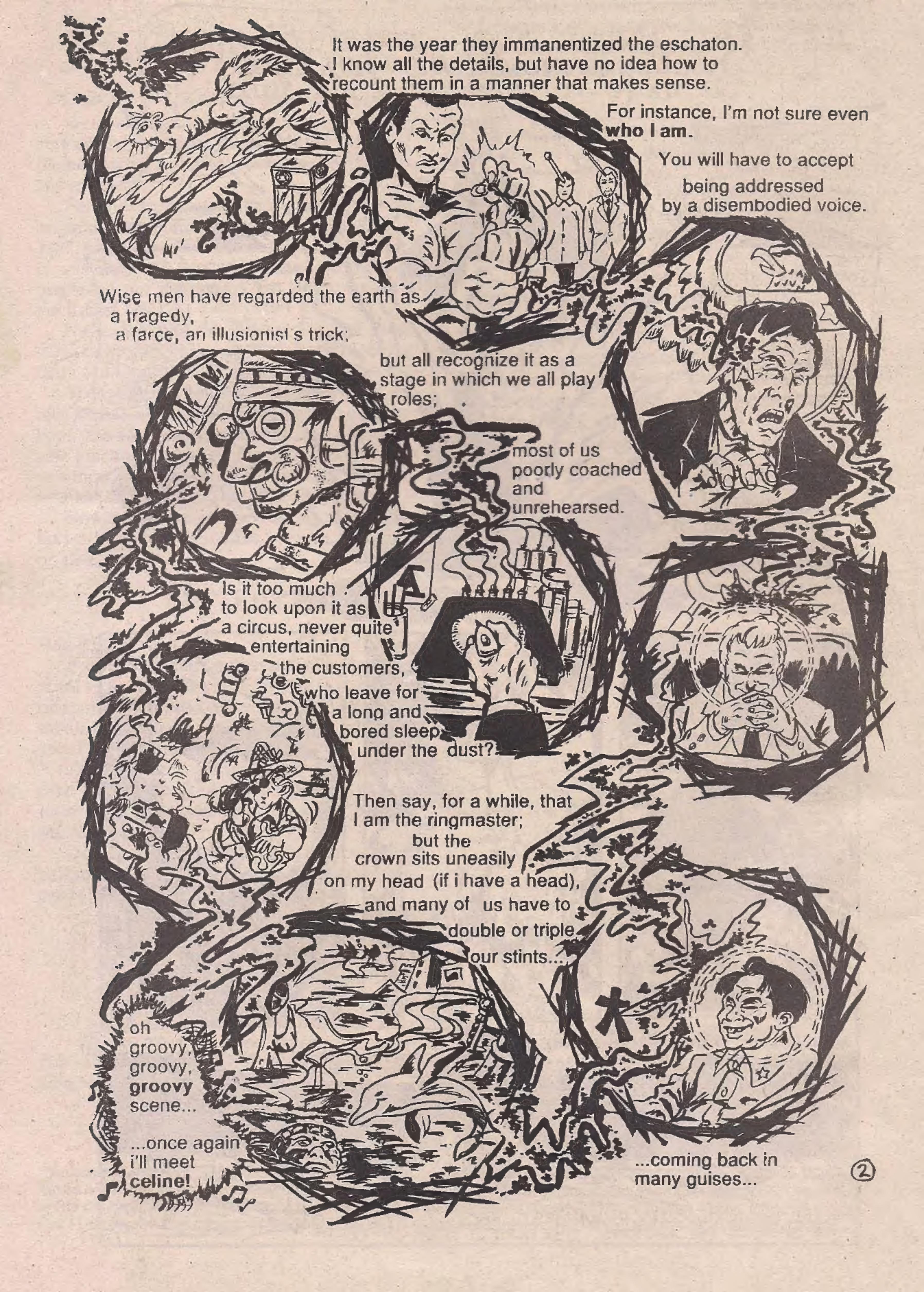
VOLCANOS USHER UP HEAT WHILE ELSEWHERE WATER BECOMES ICE AND MELTS...



...& THEN ON OTHER DAYS IT JUST RAINS. INDEED DO MANY THINGS COME TO PASS.



—LORD OMAR KHAYYAM RAVENHURST, K.S.C.
"THE BOOK OF PREDICATIONS" THE HONEST BOOK OF TRUTH



It was the year they immanentized the eschaton.
I know all the details, but have no idea how to
recount them in a manner that makes sense.

For instance, I'm not sure even
who I am.

You will have to accept
being addressed
by a disembodied voice.

Wise men have regarded the earth as
a tragedy,
a farce, an illusionist's trick;

but all recognize it as a
stage in which we all play
roles;

most of us
poorly coached
and
unrehearsed.

Is it too much
to look upon it as
a circus, never quite
entertaining
the customers,
who leave for
a long and
bored sleep
under the dust?

Then say, for a while, that
I am the ringmaster;
but the
crown sits uneasily
on my head (if I have a head),
and many of us have to
double or triple
our stints...

oh
groovy,
groovy,
groovy
scene...

...once again
I'll meet
celine!

...coming back in
many guises...

New York, April 24,
early morning:

DOMINICUS

BOOK ONE-
VERWIRRUNG

FROM
DEALEY PLAZA
TO
WATERGATE...

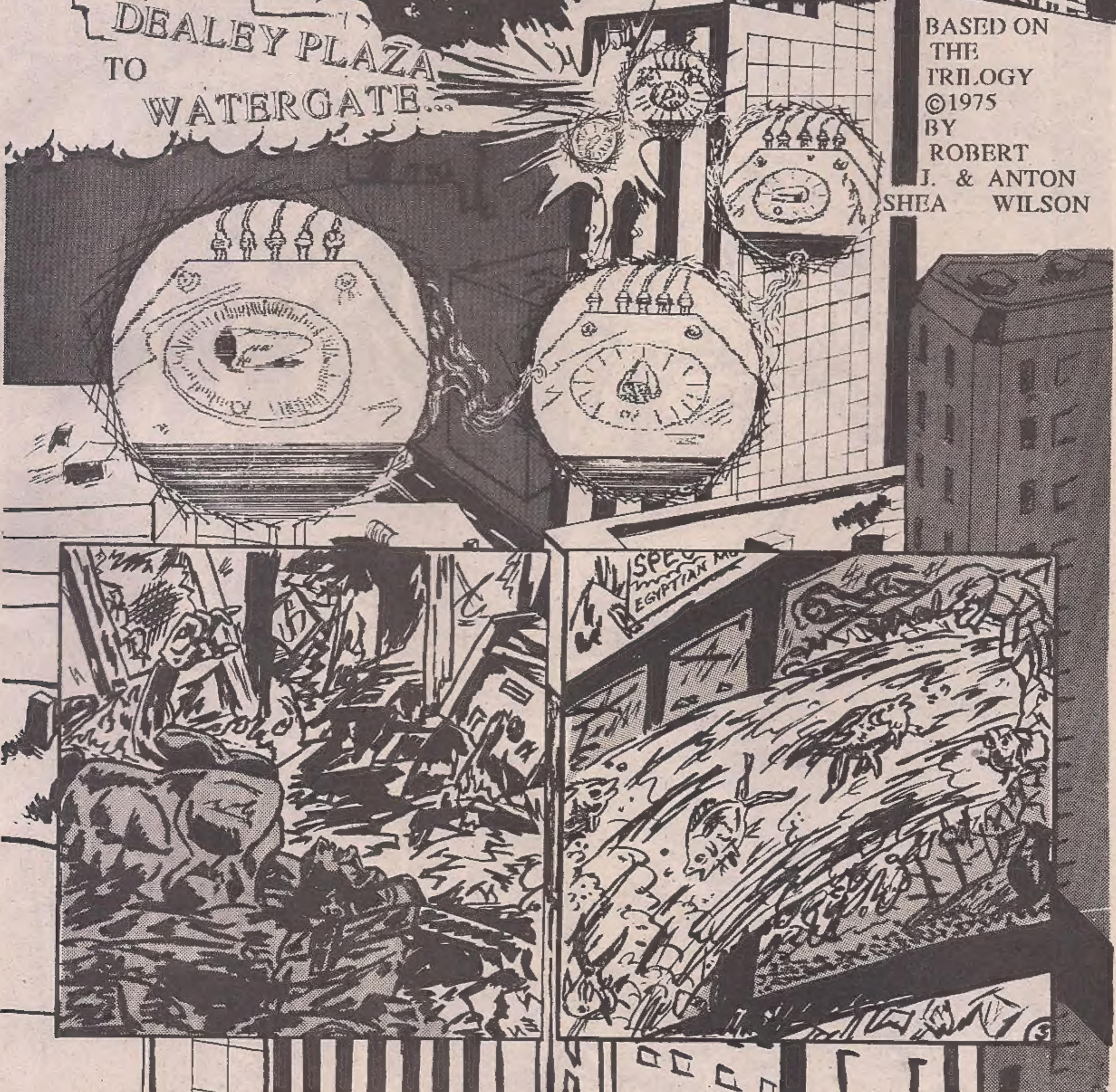
VOLUME 1

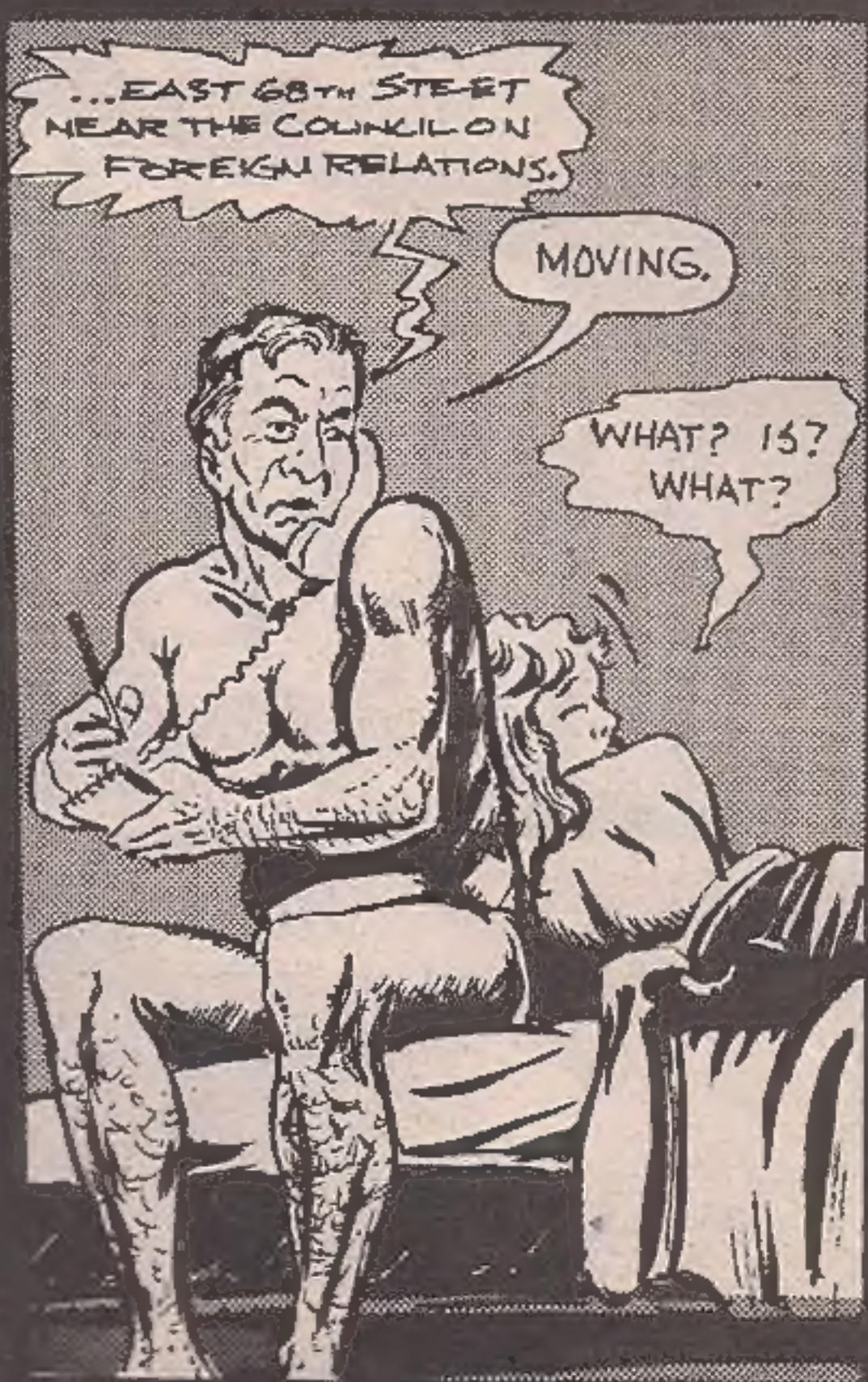
the
EYE
in the

PYRAMID

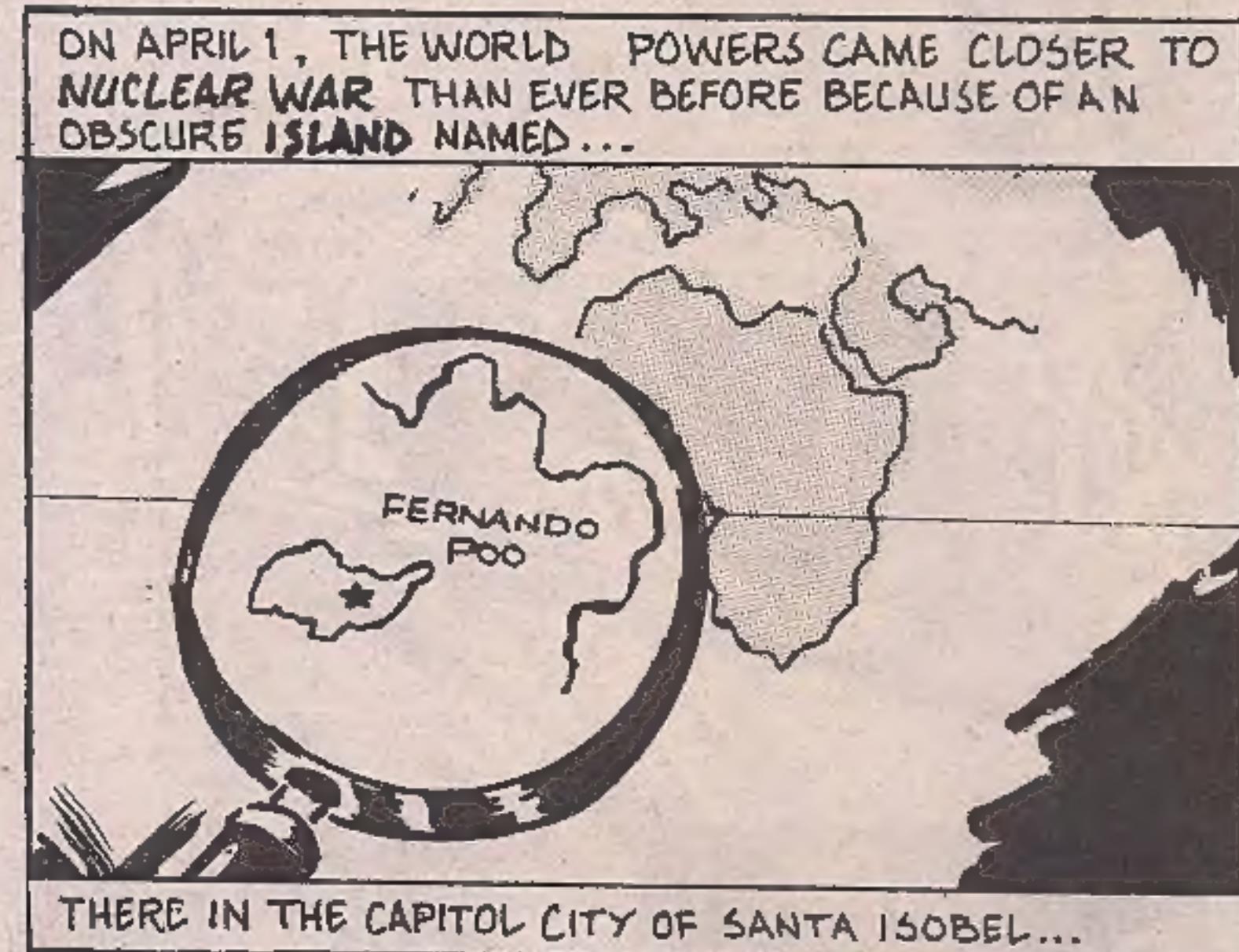
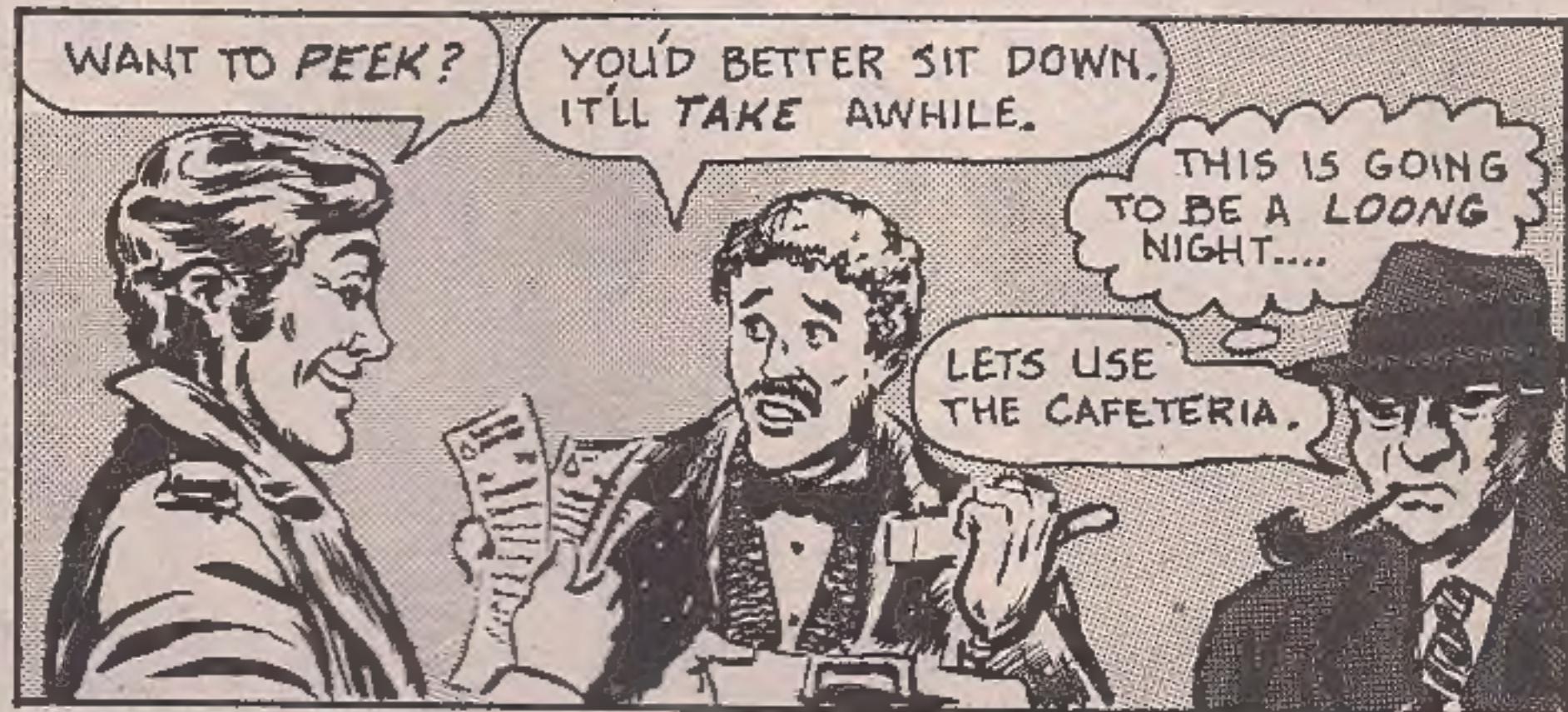
THE 1ST TRIP
OR
KETHER:

BASED ON
THE
TRILOGY
©1975
BY
ROBERT
J. & ANTON
SHEA WILSON





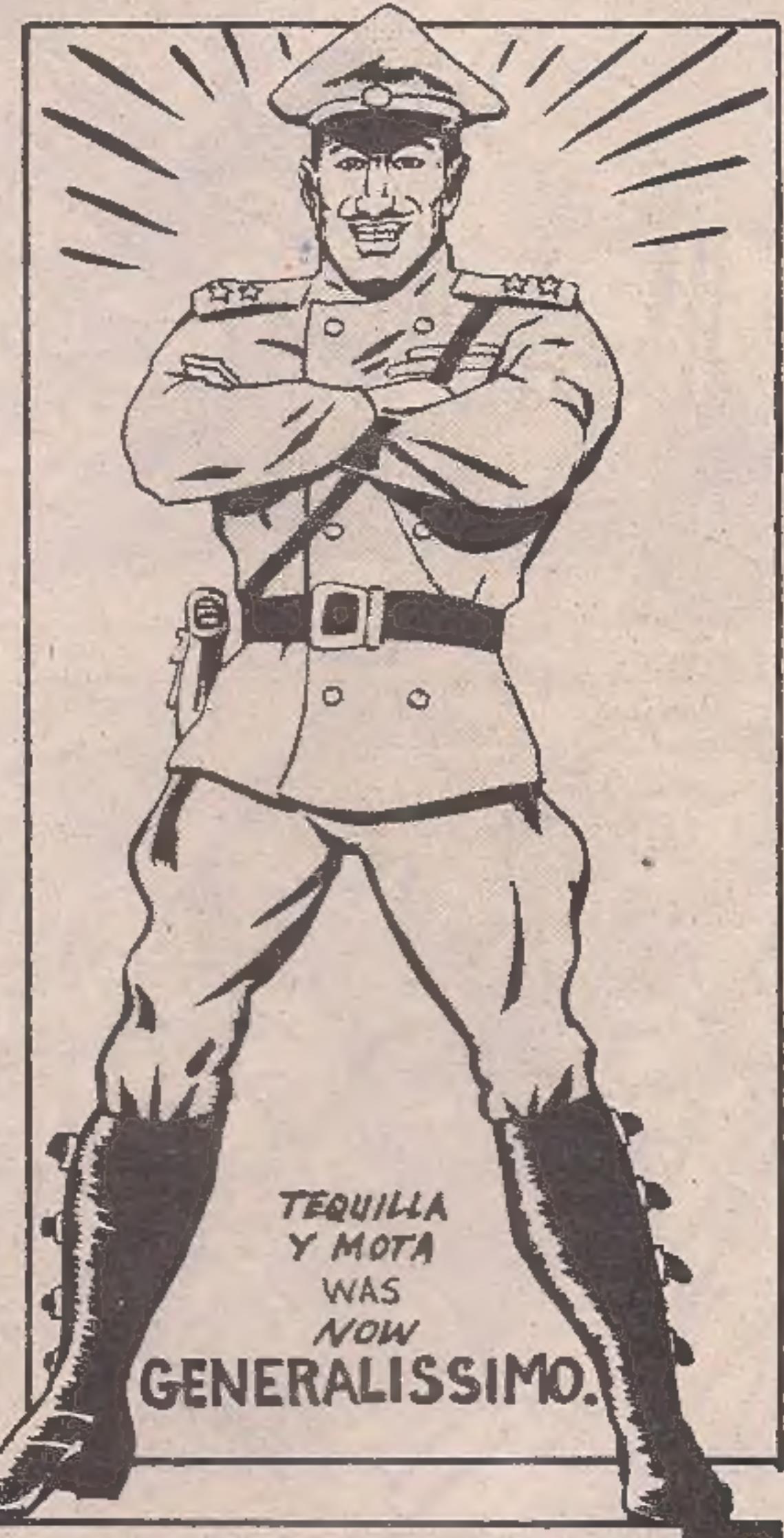




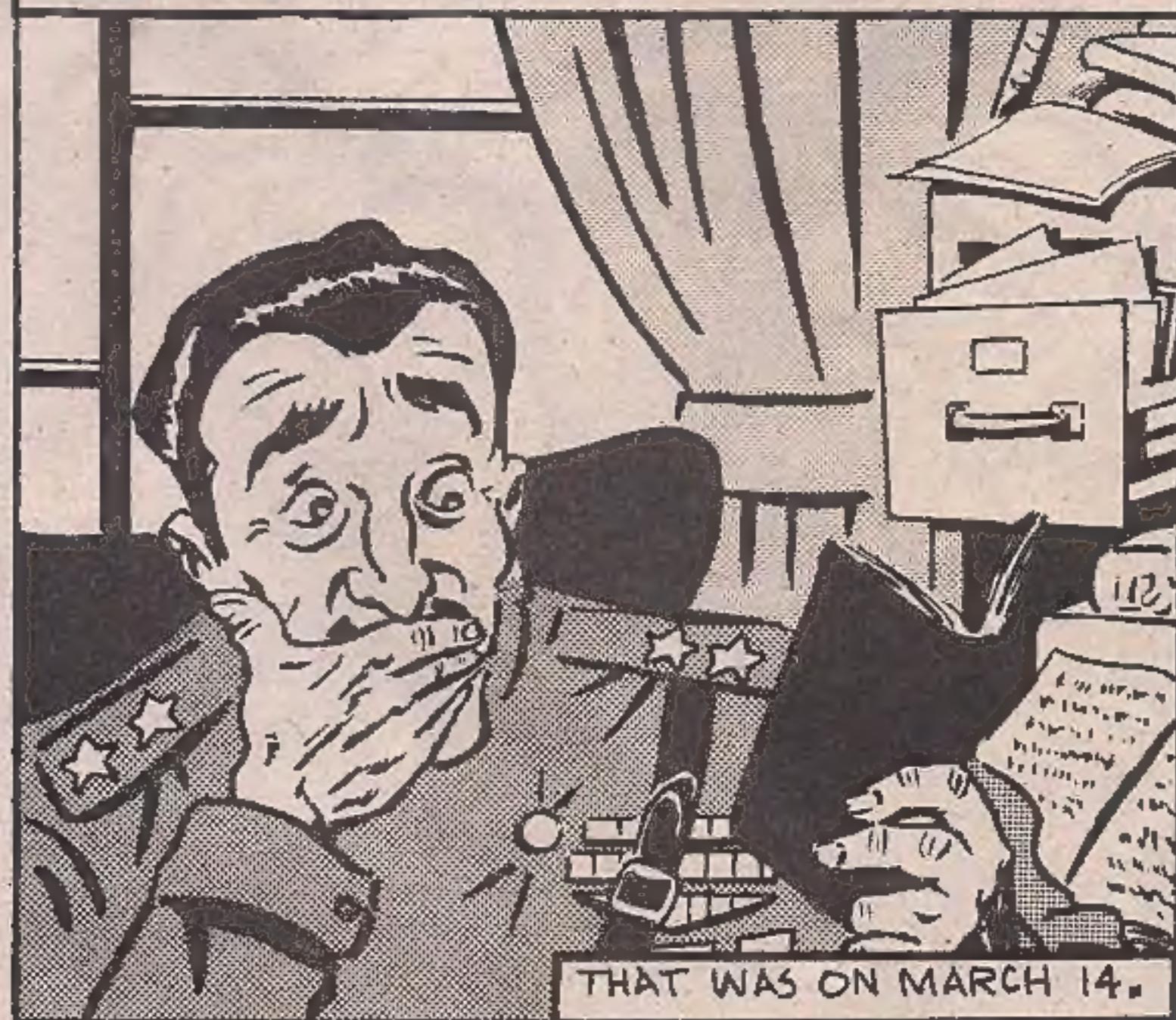
HE DRAFTED A PROCLAMATION WHICH EMBEDDED THE
BEST LEFT- & - RIGHT WING SLOGANS IN BLAND
LIBERAL-CONSERVATISM.



AFTER YEARS OF PLANNING, HE STRUCK; THE
PROCLAMATION WENT OUT TO THE WORLD:



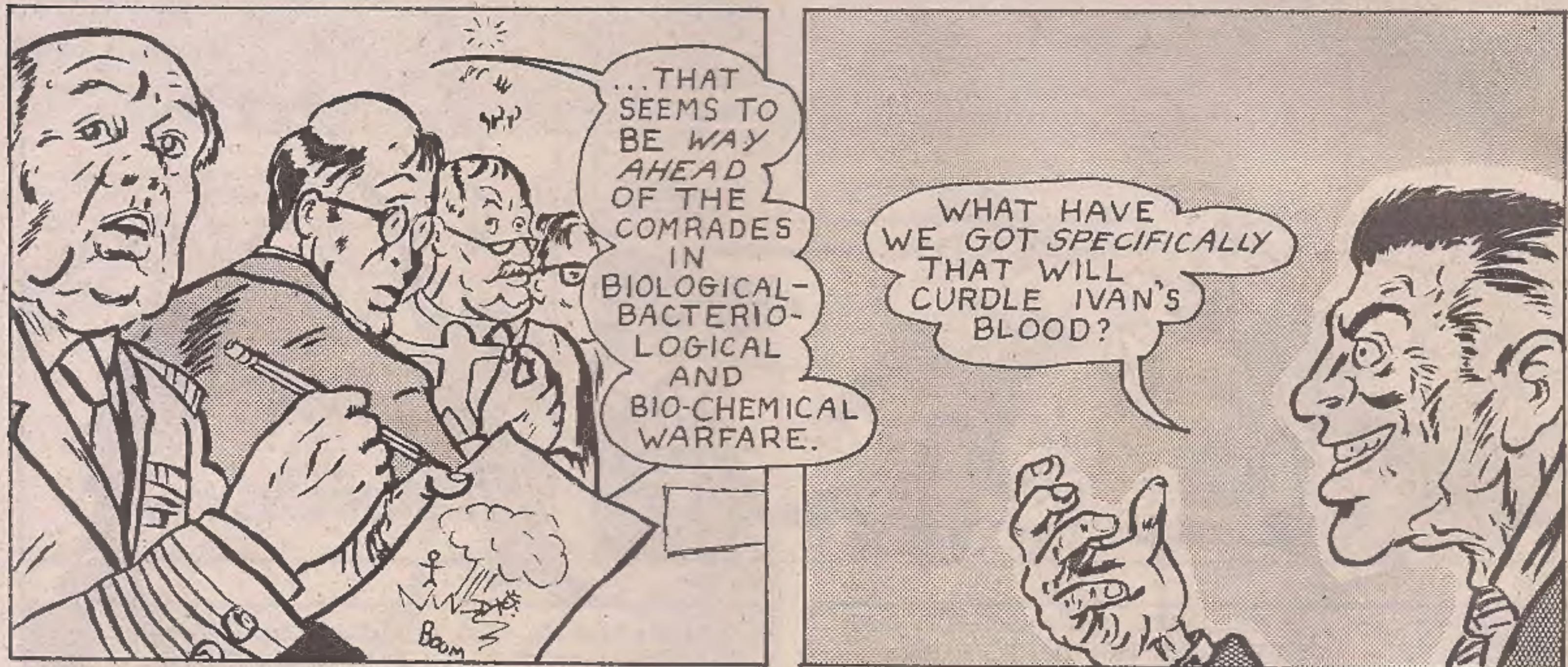
NOW, AT LAST, HE BEGAN TO WONDER HOW ONE
GOVERNED A COUNTRY. HE HOPED TO FIND A
BOOK AS GOOD AS THE ONE ON COUP D'ETAT.



ON MARCH 15, THE U.S. PRESIDENT'S 1ST
REACTION TO THE C.I.A. REPORT WAS...



ON MARCH 29, THE PRESIDENT SUMMONED THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF TO CONSULT ON THE FERNANDO POO CRISIS.



THE FIRST DREAM CAME TO DOCTOR CHARLEY "SOAPY" MOCENIGO ON FEBRUARY 2ND...

HE WAS,
AS
USUAL,
AWARE
THAT
HE WAS
DREAMING.

NEXT HE WAS
LOOKING AT
AN IMMENSE
DNA
MOLECULE.
HE BEGAN
SEARCHING
FOR THE BONDING
IRREGULARITIES
EVERY TWENTY
THIRD
ANGSTROM....

THE VISION OF
A GIGANTIC
PYRAMID MEANT
NOTHING TO HIM
AND QUICKLY
VANISHED.

TO
HIS
SURPRISE...

WHAT THE
DEVIL--??
...THEY OCCURED
EVERY SEVENTEENTH
ANGSTROM.

YES,
THE
DEVIL
000
000

HE CAME TO WITH A NEW CONCEPT:

ANTHRAX-LEPROSY MU.

ON MARCH 13, HAGBARD
CELINE'S COMPUTER,
FUCKUP, "THREW" I CHING
HEXAGRAM #23...

AND INTERPRETED IT THUSLY:

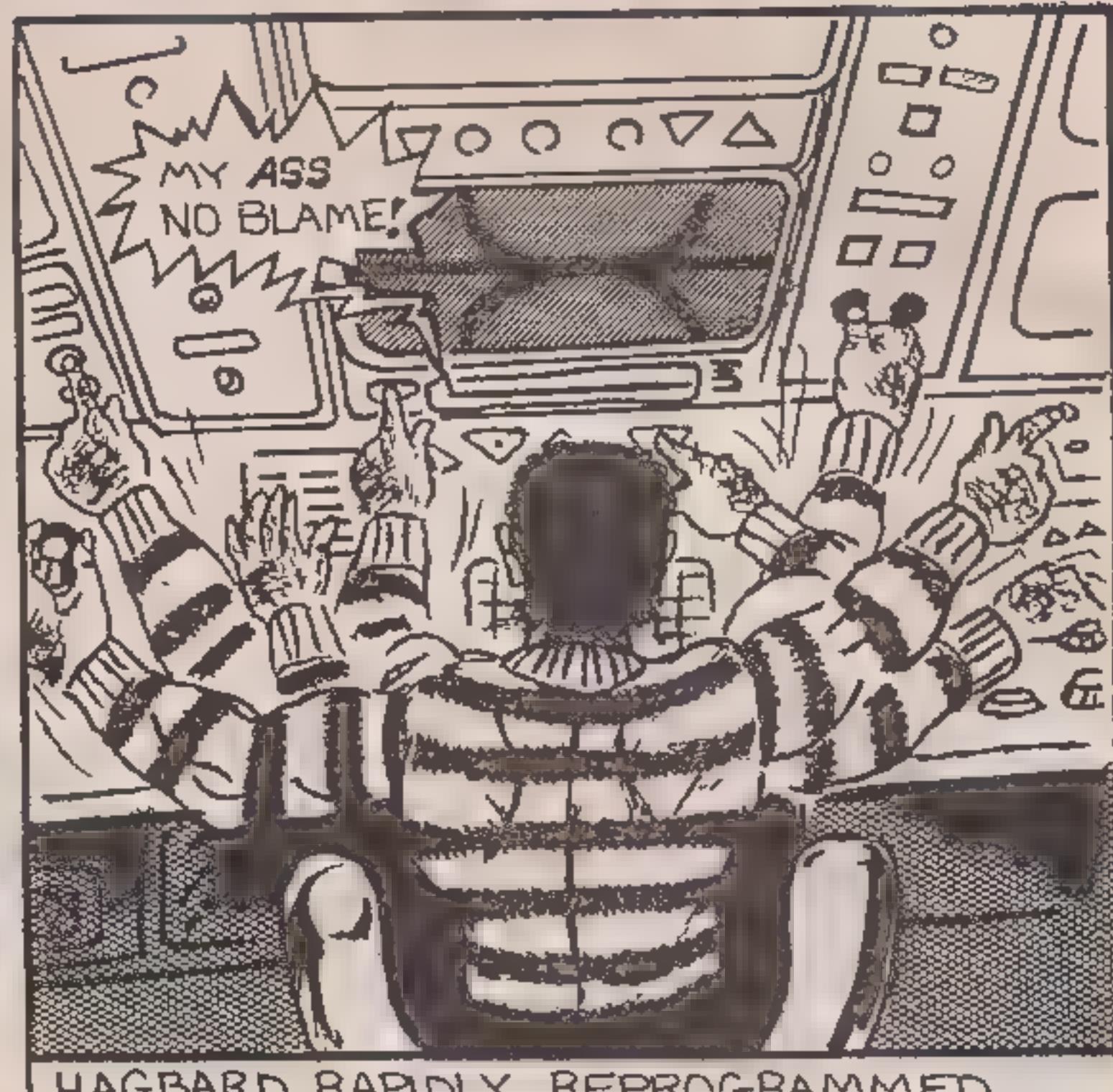
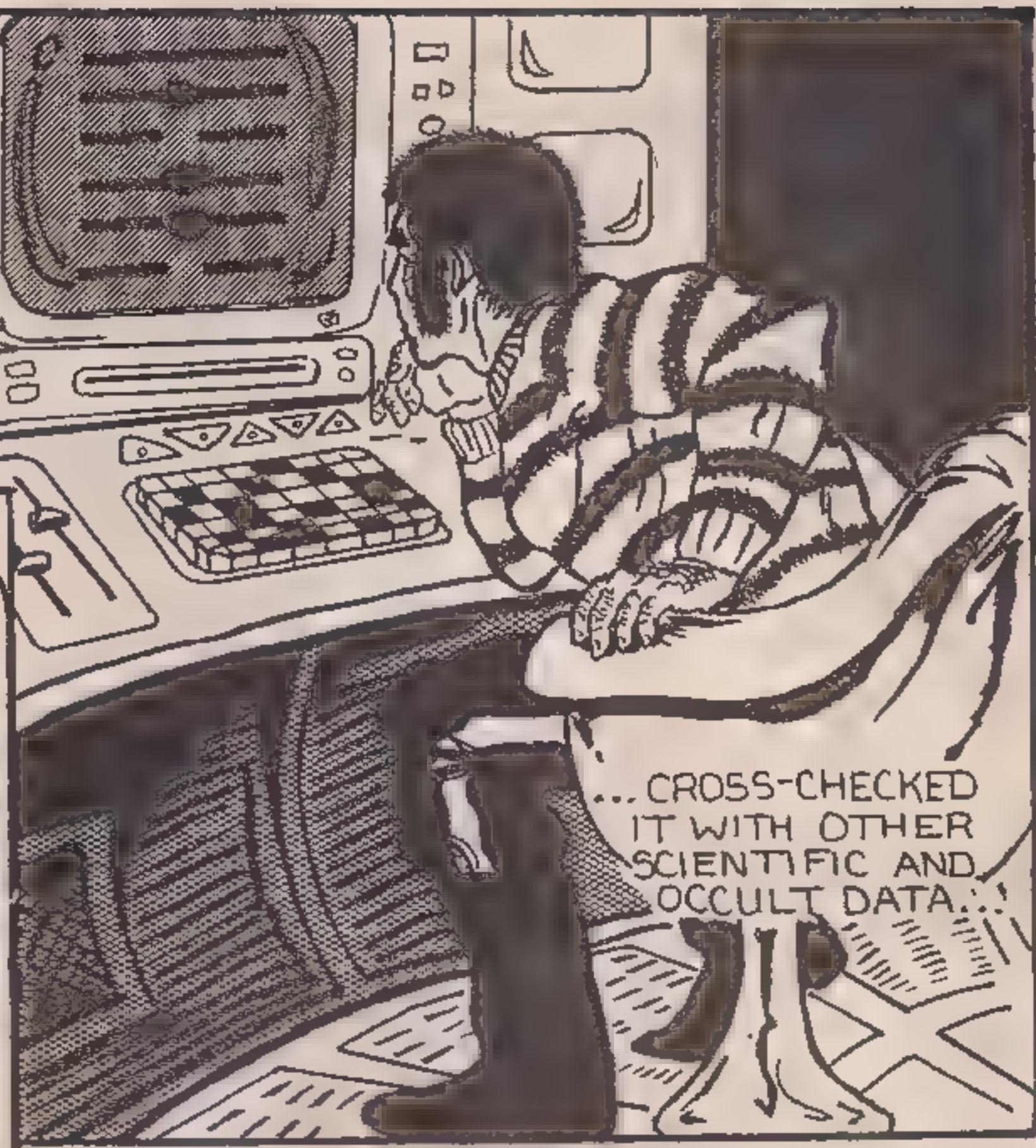
This unlucky sign was cast in Atlantis shortly before its destruction and is connected with death by water, earthquakes, tornadoes, sickness, decay, and morbidity.

World War III is probably imminent and the unleashing of plague and nerve-gas is probable.

General Prognosis: many megadeaths

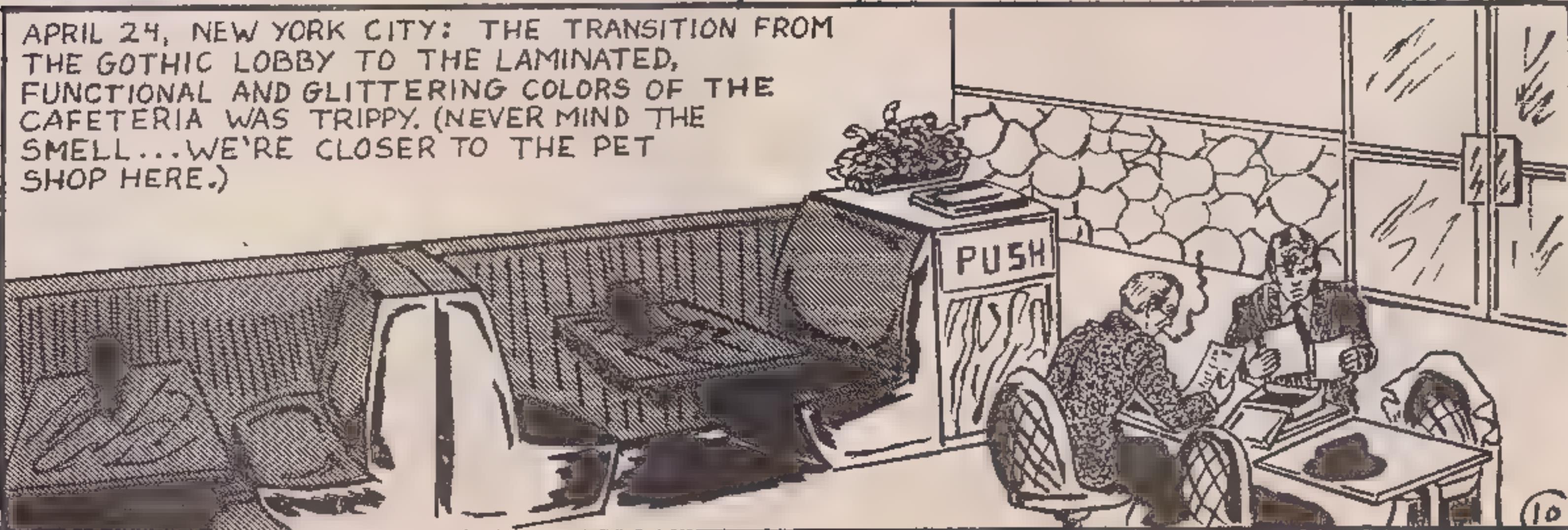
There is some hope for avoidance of the emerging pattern with prompt action of correct nature. Probability of avoidance: 0.17 ± 0.05

No Blame



HAGBARD RAPIDLY REPROGRAMMED
FUCKUP TO READ OFF PSYCHOBIOGRAPHIES
OF THE KEY FIGURES IN WORLD POLITICS
AND CHEMOBIOLOGICAL WARFARE.

APRIL 24, NEW YORK CITY: THE TRANSITION FROM THE GOTHIC LOBBY TO THE LAMINATED, FUNCTIONAL AND GLITTERING COLORS OF THE CAFETERIA WAS TRIPPY. (NEVER MIND THE SMELL...WE'RE CLOSER TO THE PET SHOP HERE.)



HANG ONTO
YOUR HATS--
THIS
IS WHAT
THE MEMOS
SAID:

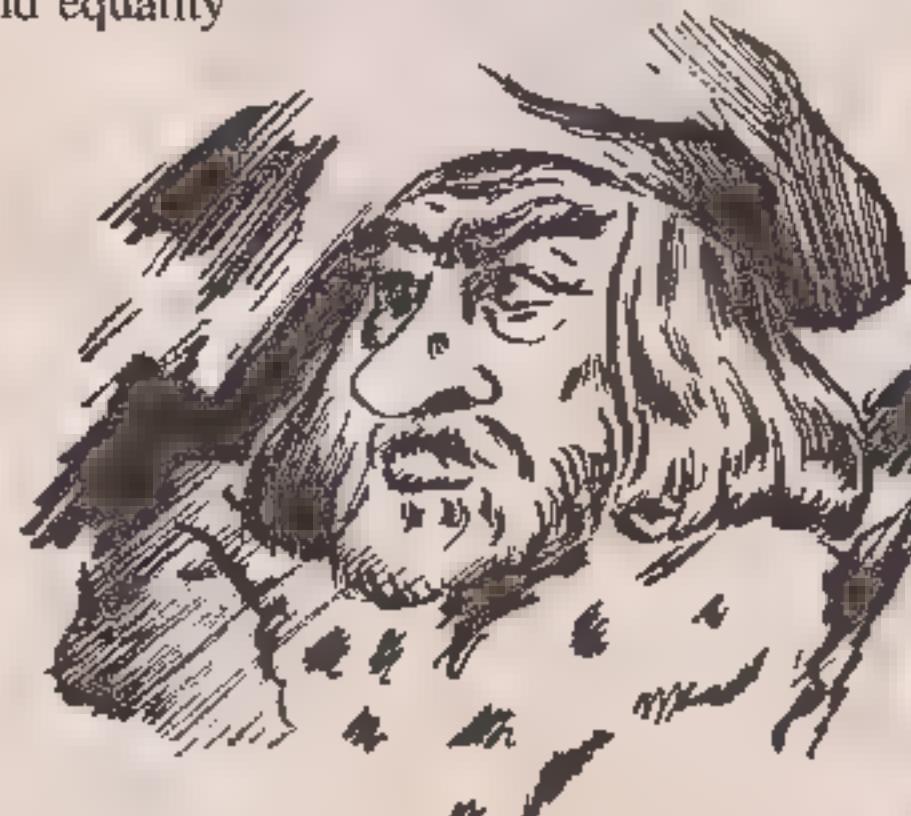
ILLUMINATI PROJECT:
MEMO No. 1

7/23



The first reference I've found is in "Violence," by Jacques Ellul (Seabury Press, New York, 1969). He says (pgs. 18-19) that the Illuminated Ones were founded by Joachim of Floris in the 11th century and originally taught a primitive Christian doctrine of poverty and equality

but later, under the leadership of Fra Dolcino in the 15th century, they became violent, plundered the rich and announced the imminent reign of the Spirit



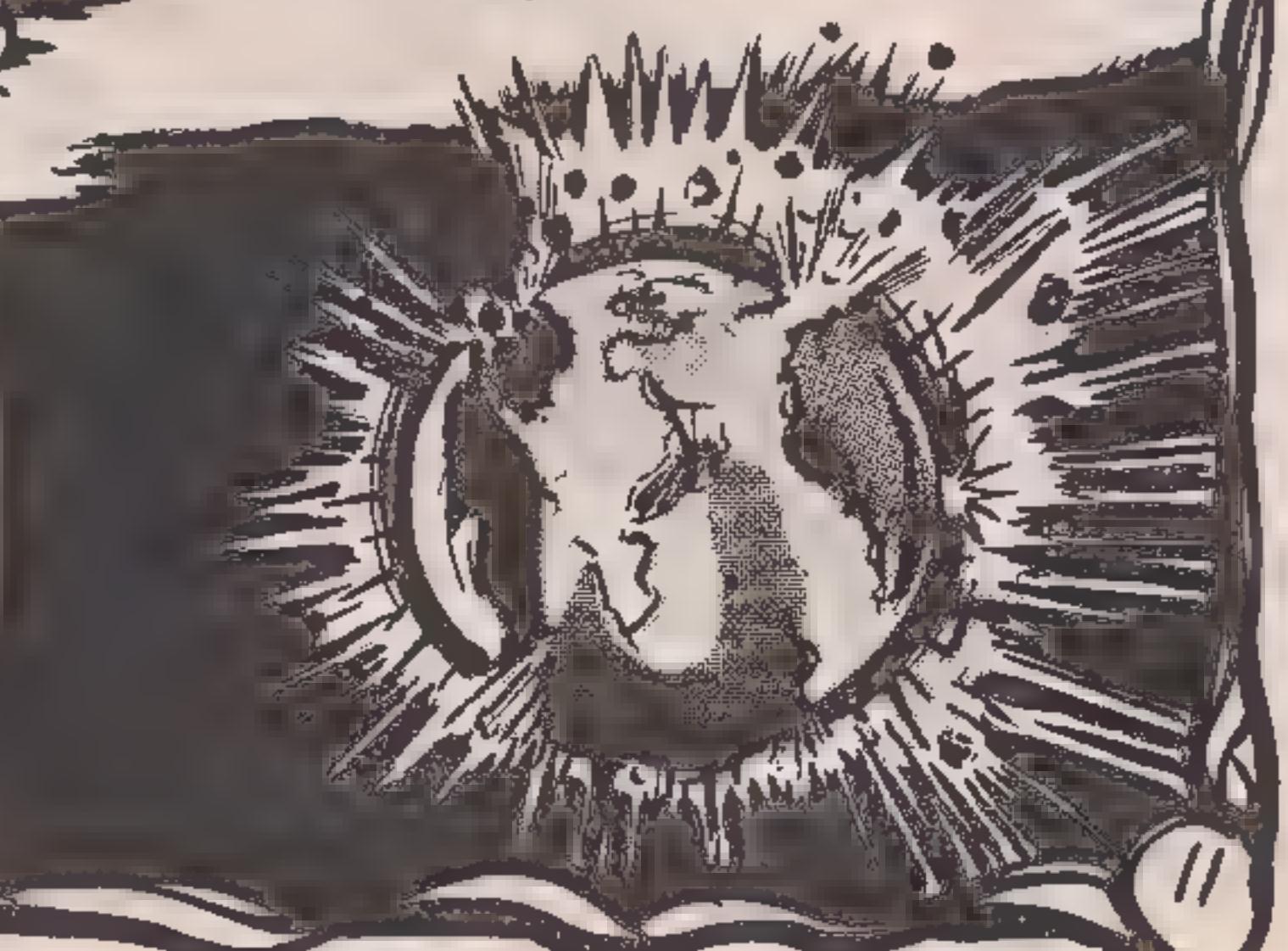
"In 1507," he concludes, "they were vanquished by the 'forces of the order'—that is, an army commanded by the Bishop of Vercueil." He makes no mention of any Illuminati movement in earlier centuries or in more recent times

I'll have more later today. *Pat*



P.S. I found a little more about Joachim of Floris in the back files of the *National Review*. William Buckley and his cronies think Joachim is responsible for modern liberalism, socialism and communism; they've condemned him in fine theological language

He committed the heresy, they say, of "immanentizing the Christian Eschaton." Do you want me to look that up in a technical treatise on Thomism? I think it means bringing the end of the world closer, sort of

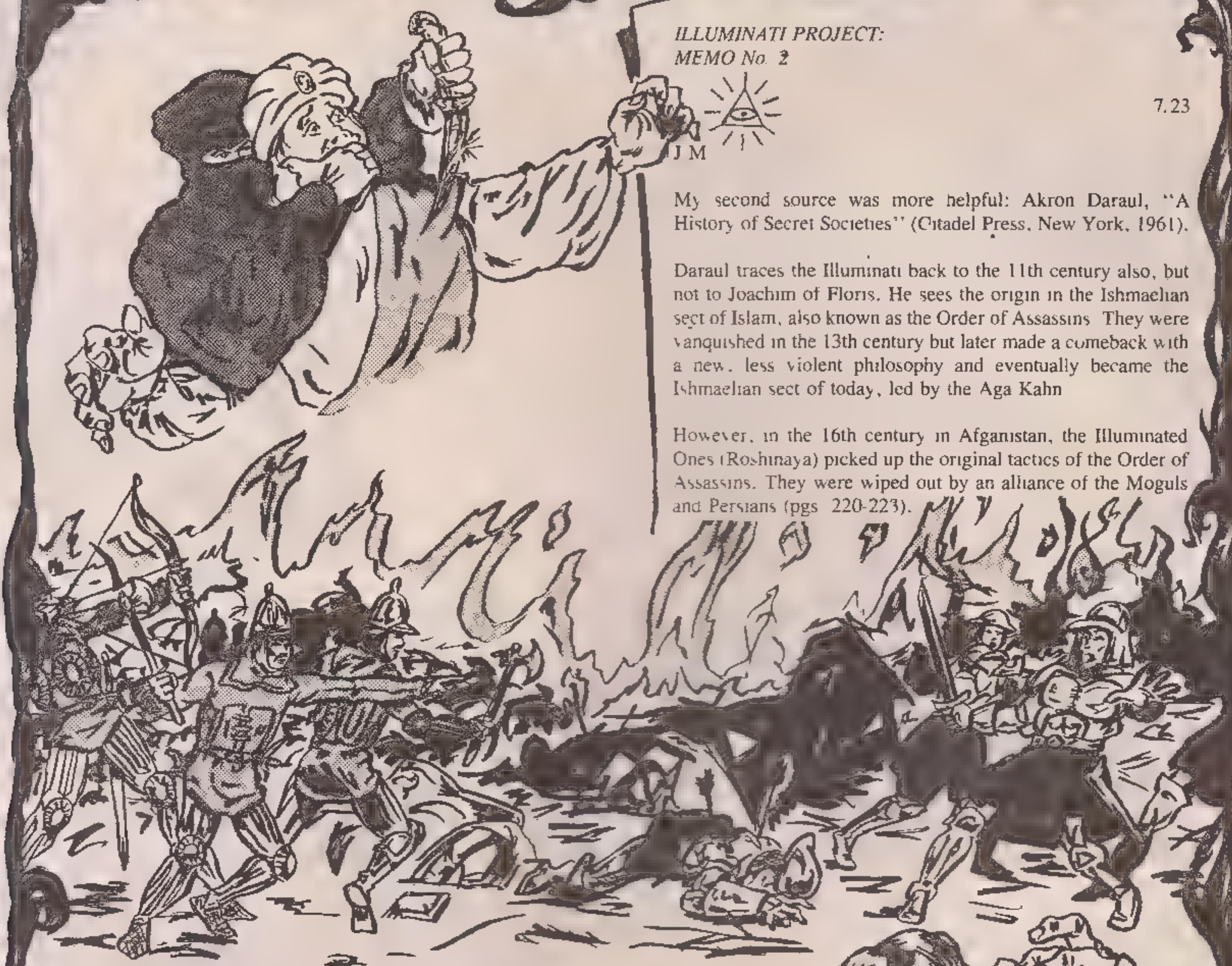




My second source was more helpful: Akron Daraul, "A History of Secret Societies" (Citadel Press, New York, 1961).

Daraul traces the Illuminati back to the 11th century also, but not to Joachim of Floris. He sees the origin in the Ishmaelian sect of Islam, also known as the Order of Assassins. They were vanquished in the 13th century but later made a comeback with a new, less violent philosophy and eventually became the Ishmaelian sect of today, led by the Aga Kahn.

However, in the 16th century in Afghanistan, the Illuminated Ones (Roshinaya) picked up the original tactics of the Order of Assassins. They were wiped out by an alliance of the Moguls and Persians (pgs. 220-223).



But "the beginning of the 17th century saw the foundation of the Illuminated Ones of Spain—the Allumbrados, condemned by an edict of the Grand Inquisition in 1623. In 1654, the 'illuminated' Guerinettes came into public notice in France."



And finally the part you're most interested in the Bavarian Illuminati was founded on May Day, 1776, in Ingolstadt, Bavaria, by Adam Weishaupt, a former Jesuit. "Documents still extant show several points of resemblance between the German and Central Asian Illuminati points that are hard to account for on grounds of pure coincidence" (pg. 225). Weishaupt's Illuminati were suppressed by the Bavarian government in 1705. Daraul also mentions the Illuminati of Paris in the 1880s but suggests it was simply a passing fad. He does not accept the notion that the Illuminati still exist today.

This is beginning to look big. Why are we keeping the details from George?

ILLUMINATI PROJECT:
MEMO No. 4



J M..

Here's a letter that appeared in *Stag Party* a few years ago ("The Stag Party Advisor," *Stag Party*, April 1969, pgs 62-64)

"I recently heard an old man of right wing views—a friend of my grandparents—assert that the current wave of assassinations in America is the work of a secret society called the Illuminati. He said that the Illuminati have existed throughout history, own the international banking cartels, have all been 32nd-degree Masons and were known to Ian Fleming, who portrayed them as 'Spectre' in his James Bond books, for which the Illuminati did away with Mr. Fleming. At first all this seemed like a paranoid delusion to me. Then I read in the *New Yorker* that Allan Chapman, one of Jim Garrison's investigators in the New Orleans probe of the John Kennedy assassination, believes that the Illuminati really exist."

Stag Party, of course, puts down the whole idea as ridiculous and gives the standard "Encyclopedia Britannica" story that the Illuminati went out of business in 1785

7 24

ILLUMINATI PROJECT:
MEMO No. 3



J M

7/24

The "Encyclopedia Britannica" has little to say on the subject (1966 edition, volume 11, "Halcar to Impala," pg. 1094)

"Illuminati—A short-lived movement of Republican free thought founded on May Day 1776 by Adam Weishaupt, professor of Canon law at Ingolstadt and a former Jesuit. From 1778 onward they began to make contact with various Masonic lodges where, under the impulse of A. Knigge (q.v.), one of their chief converts, they often managed to gain a commanding position. The scheme itself had its attractions for literary men like Goethe and Herder, and even for the reigning dukes of Gotha and Weimer. The movement suffered from internal dissension and was ultimately banned by an edict of the Bavarian government in 1785."



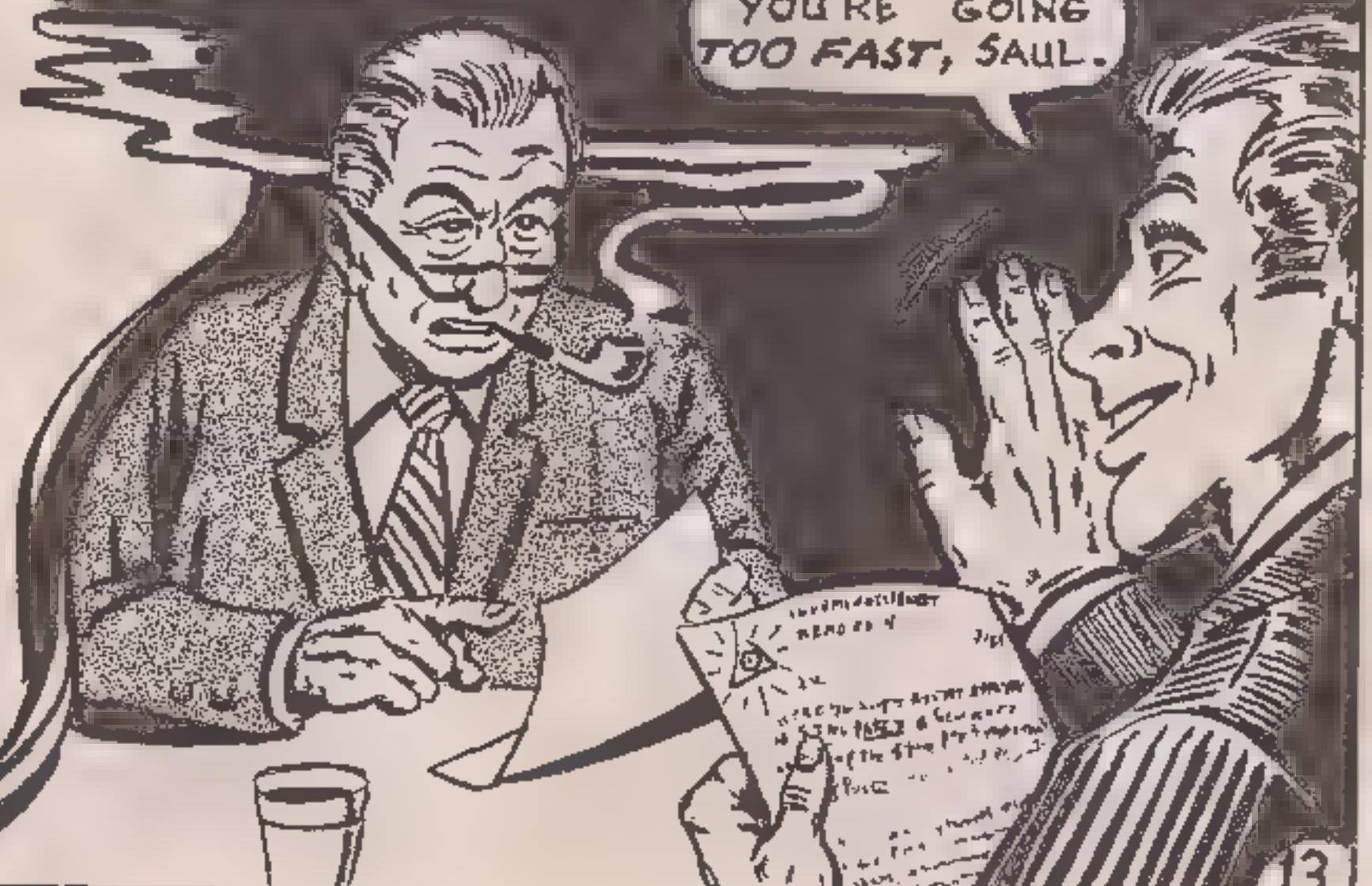
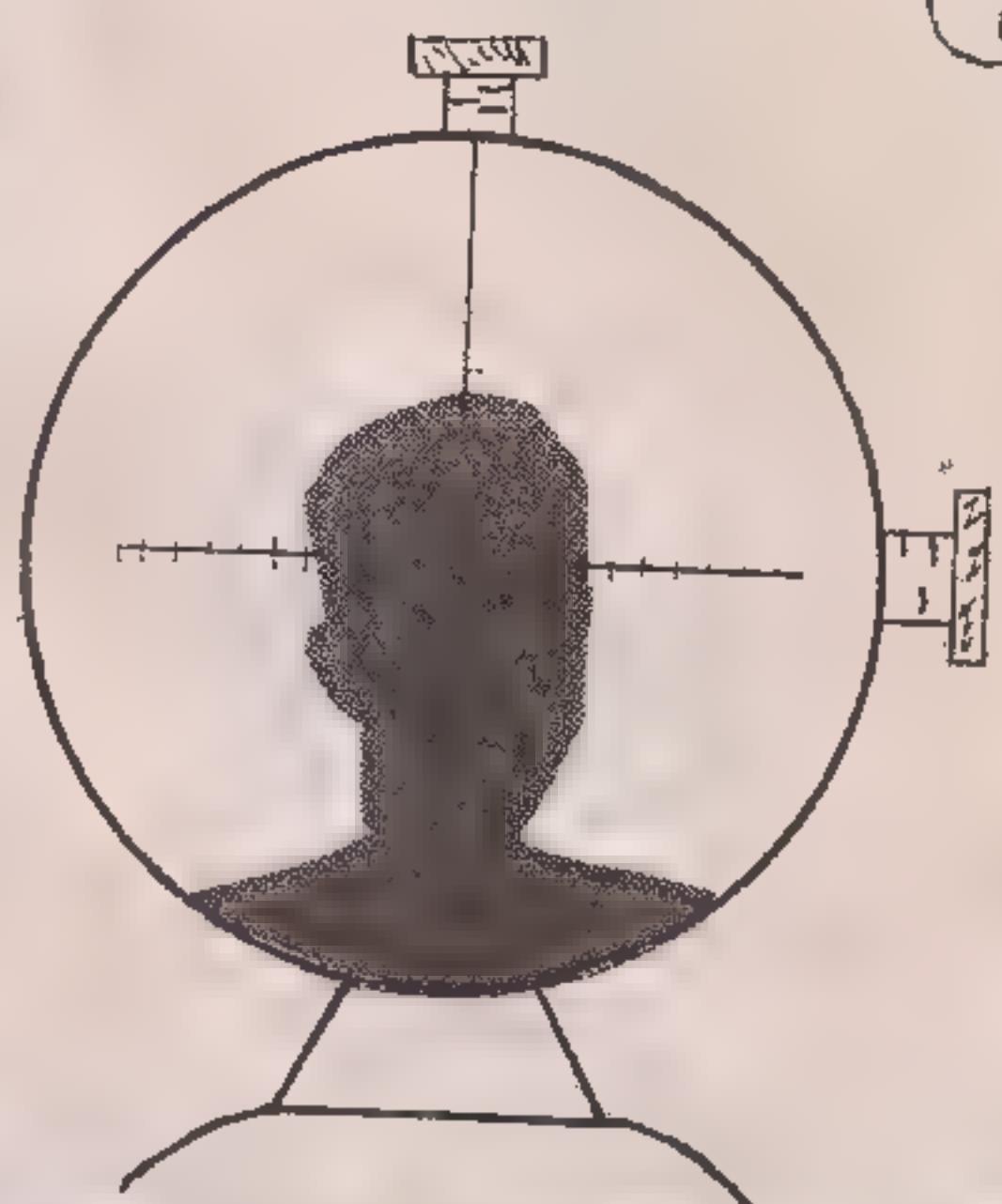
Pat

Pat

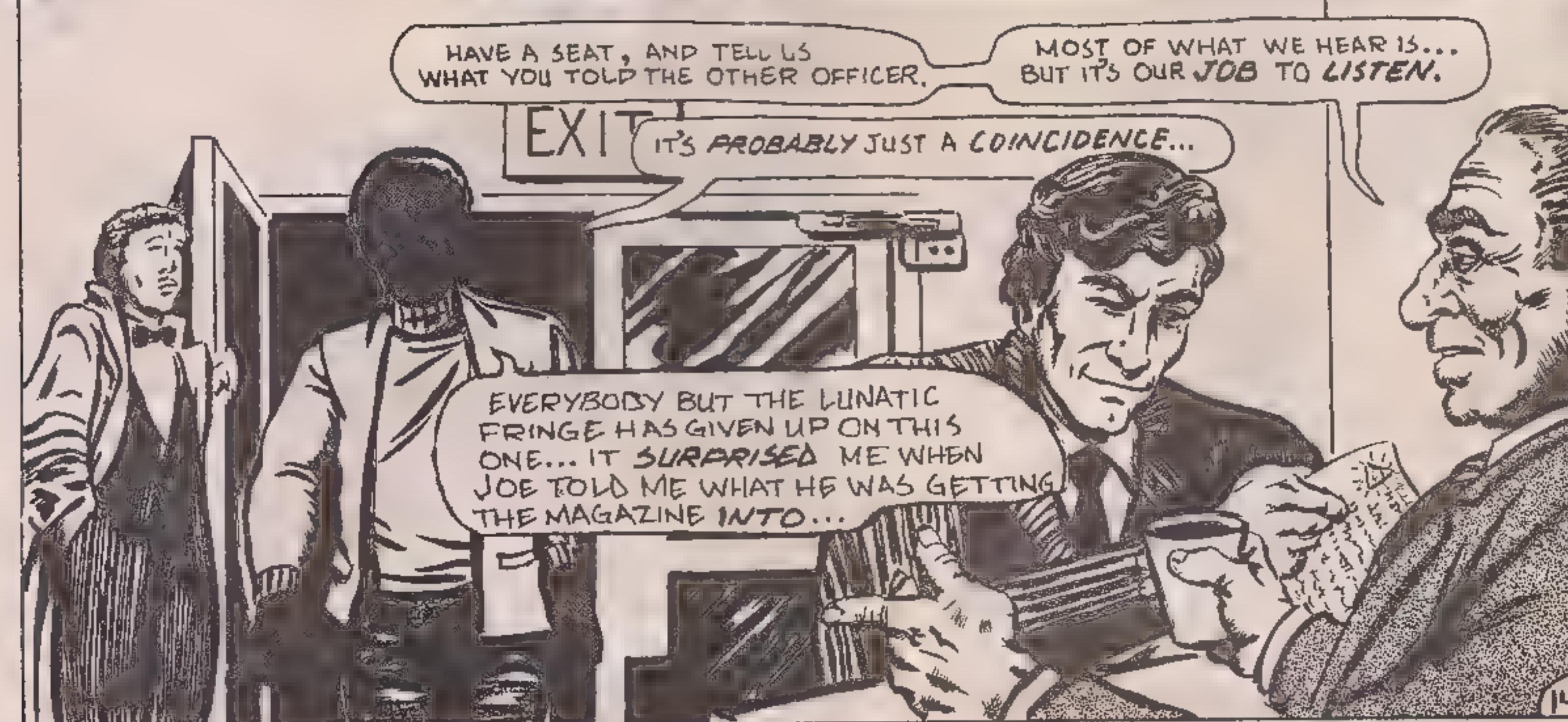
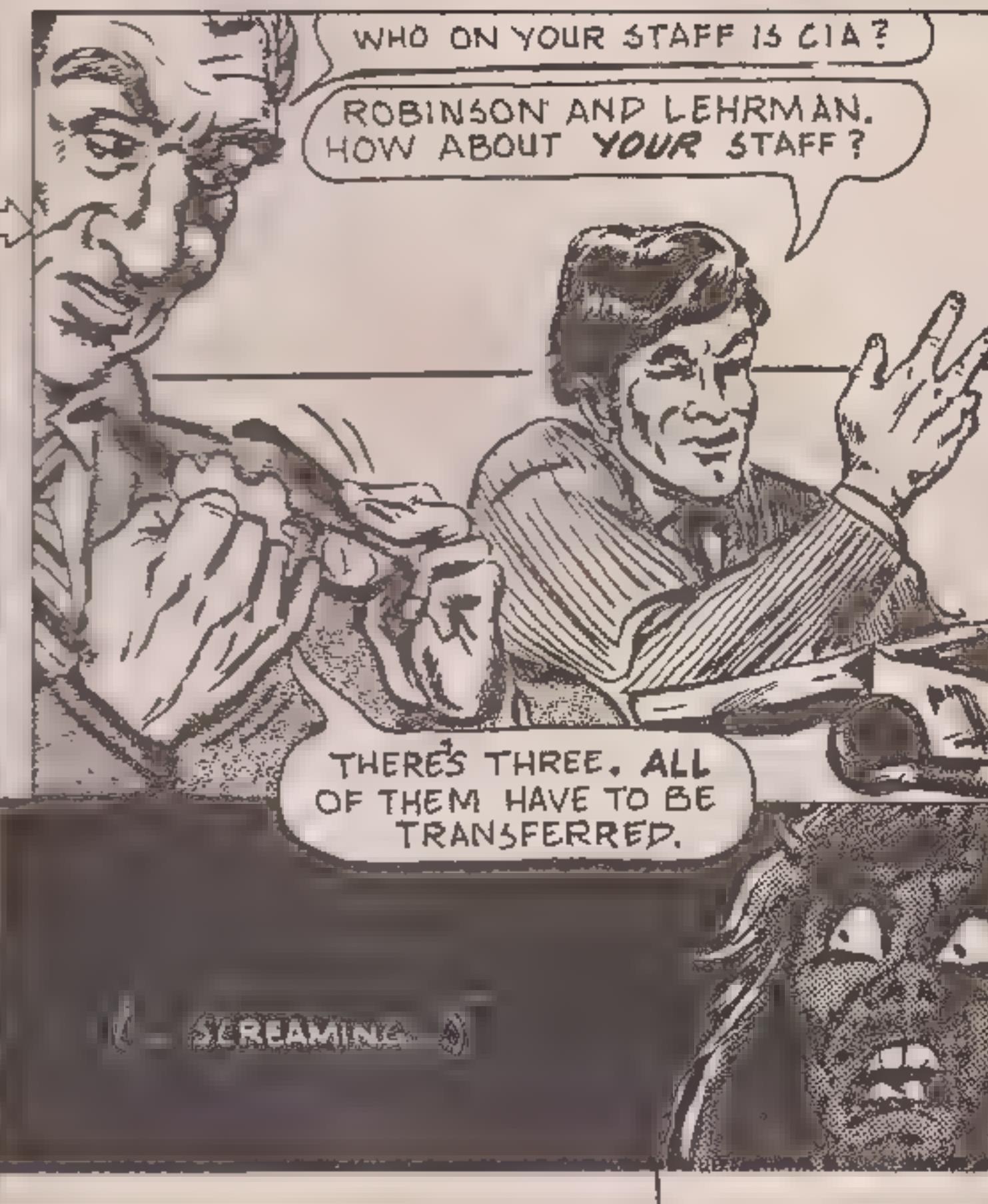
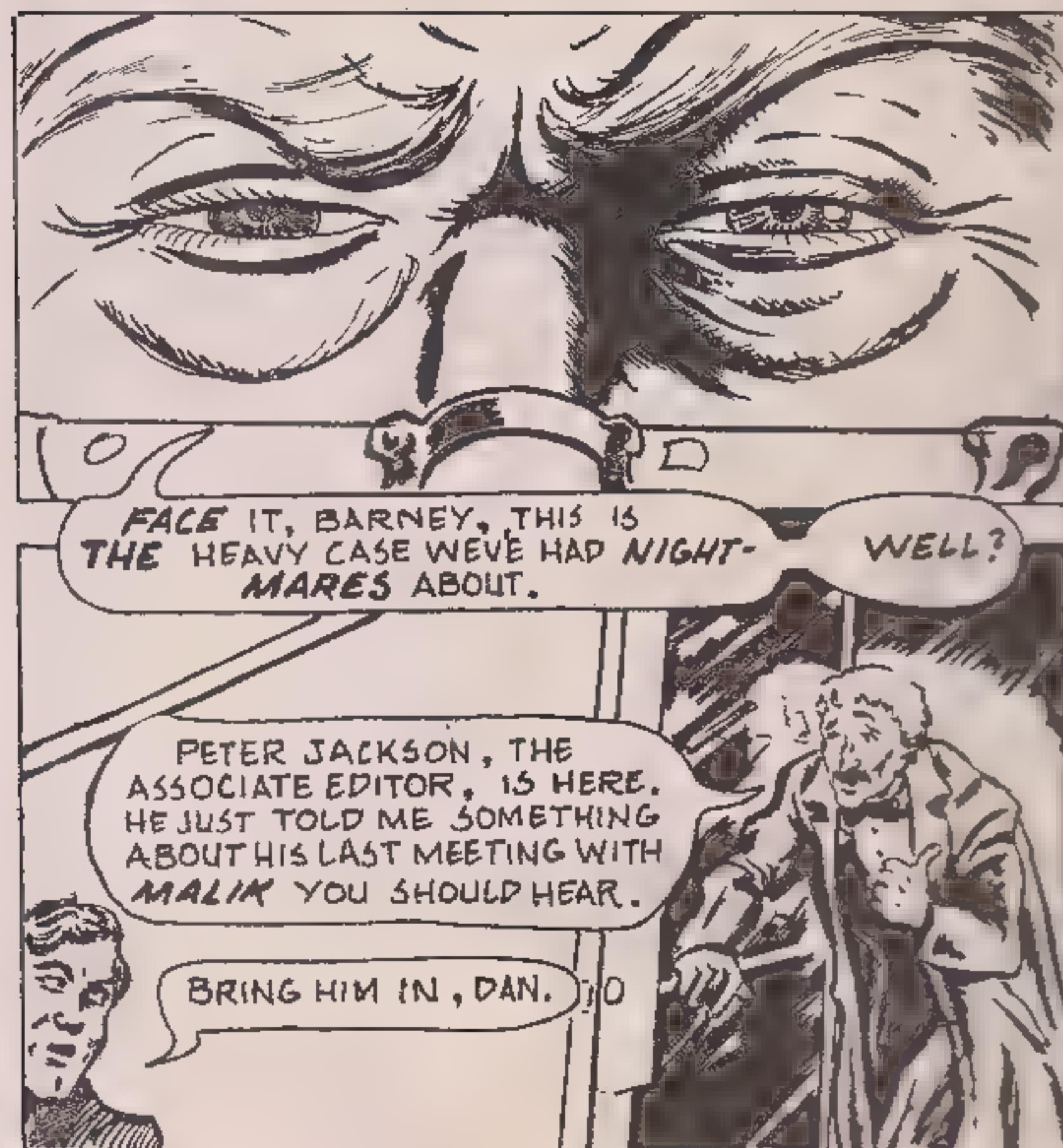
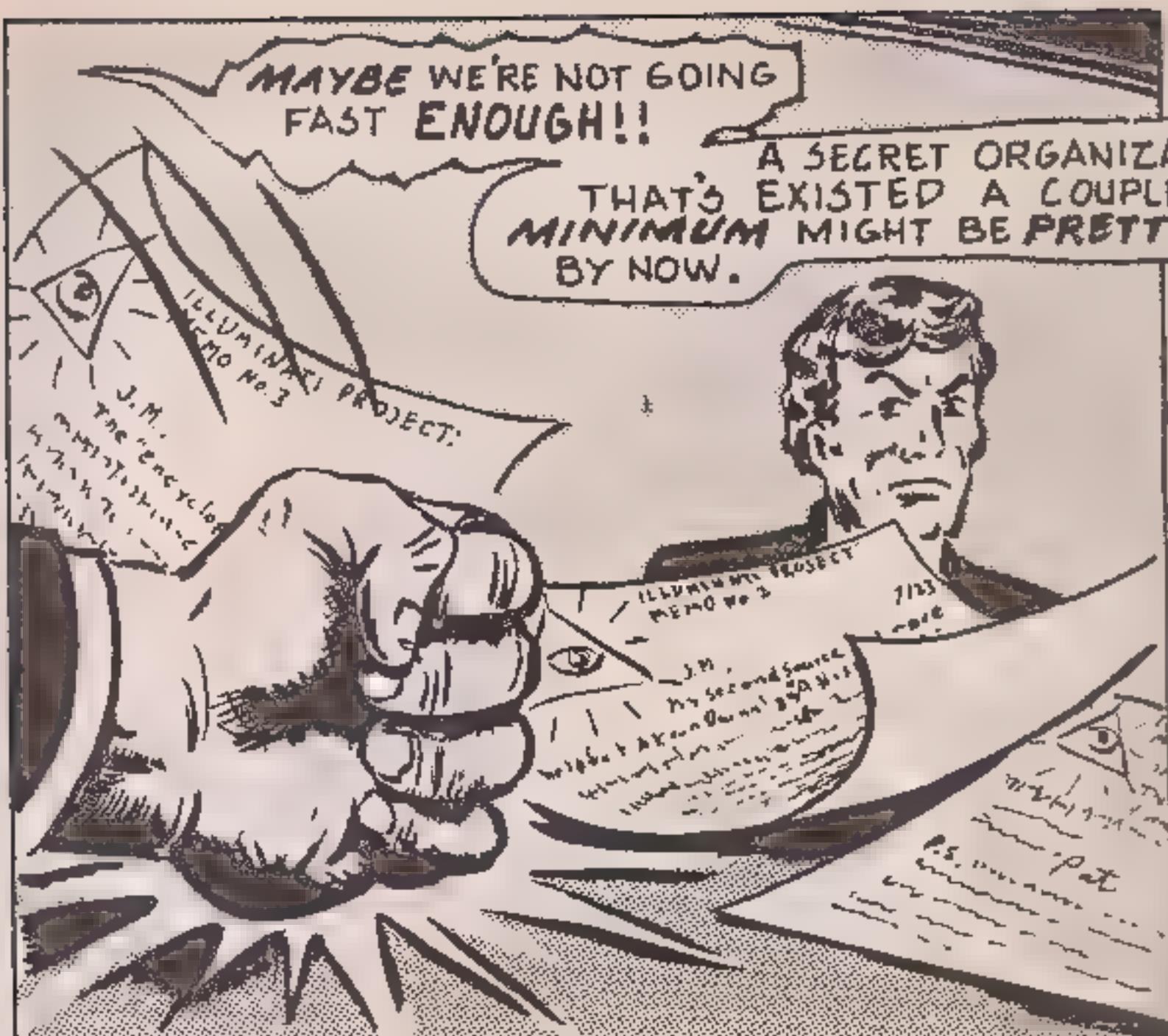
I'LL BET JOE MALIK'S THE JM THESE MEMOS WERE WRITTEN FOR.

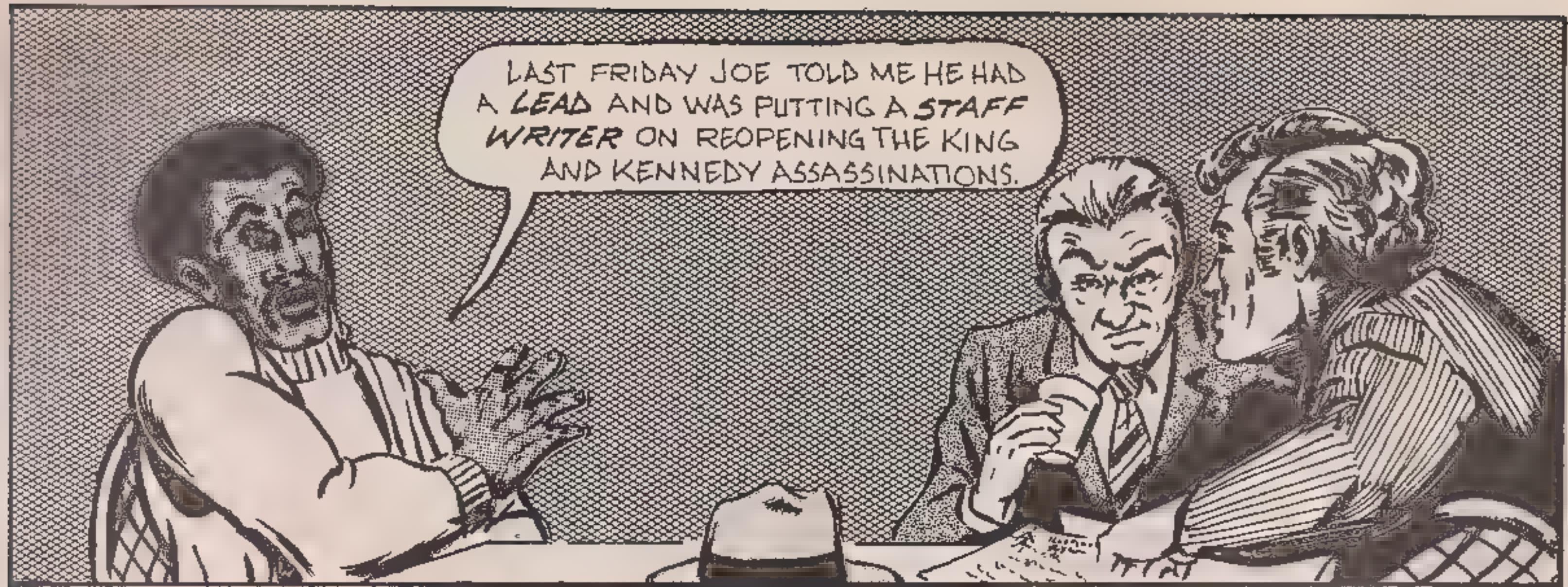
SURE! THESE ILLUMINATI CHARACTERS GOT THE EDITOR AND BLEW UP HIS OFFICE! NUTZ!

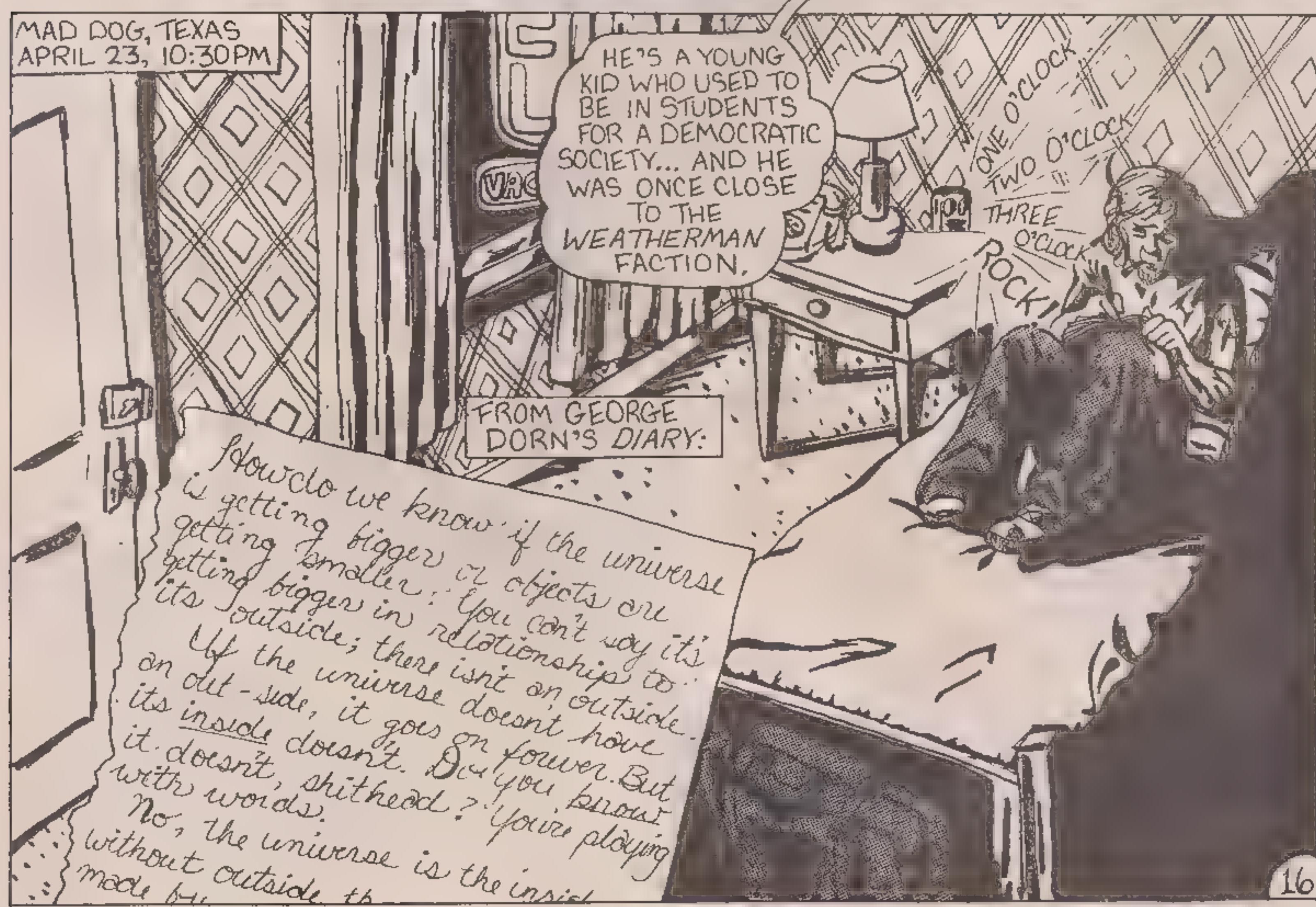
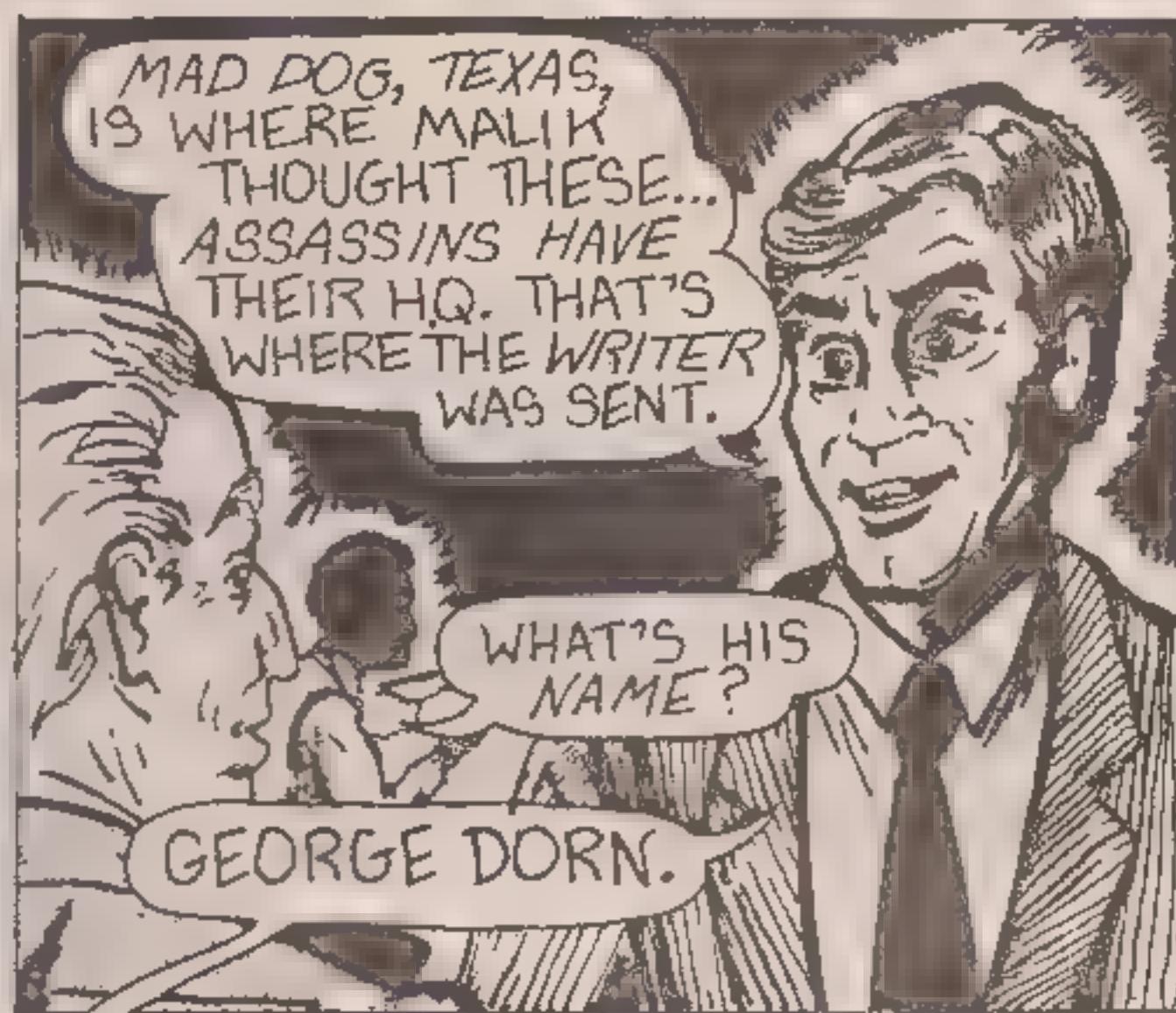
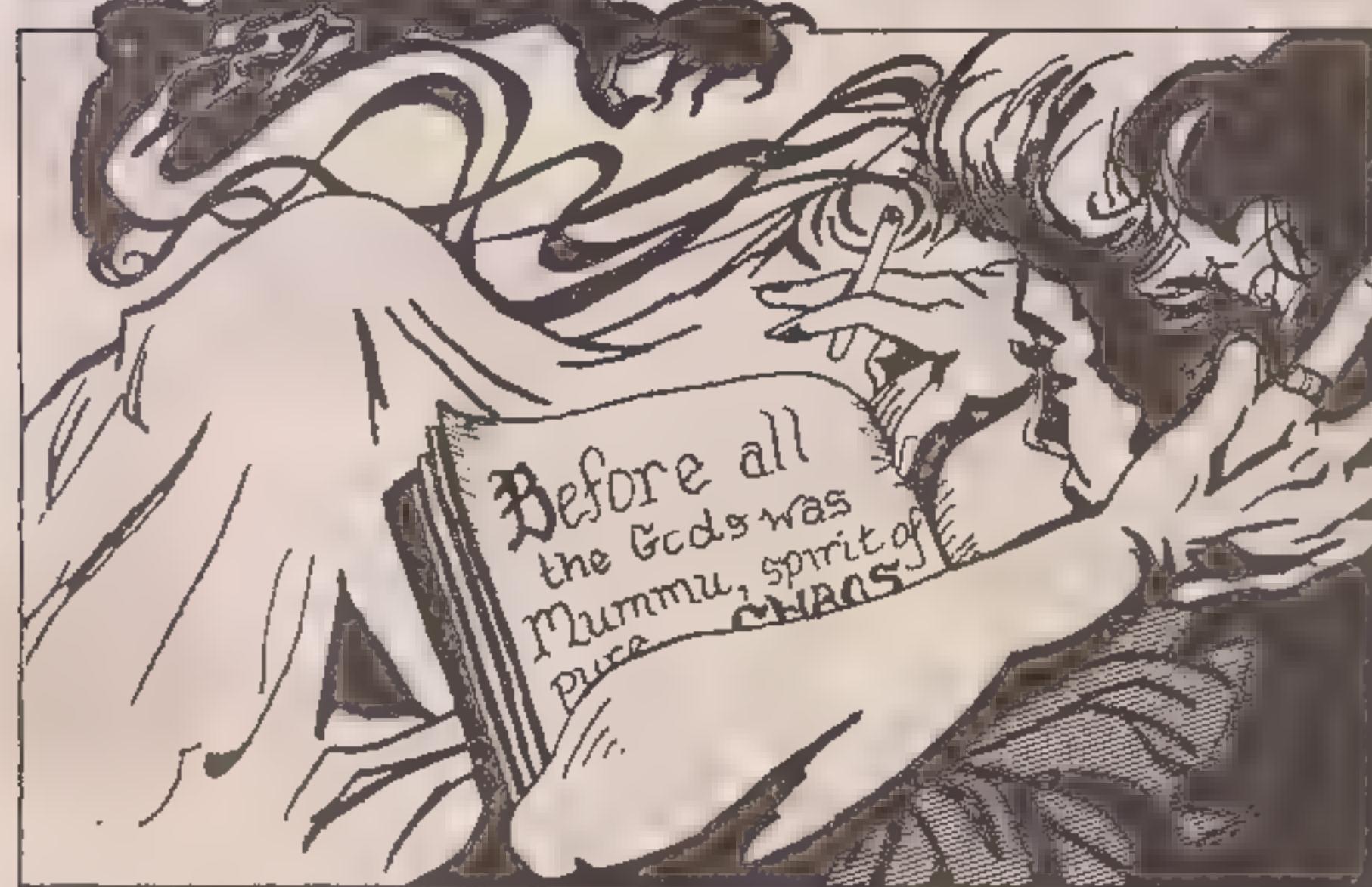
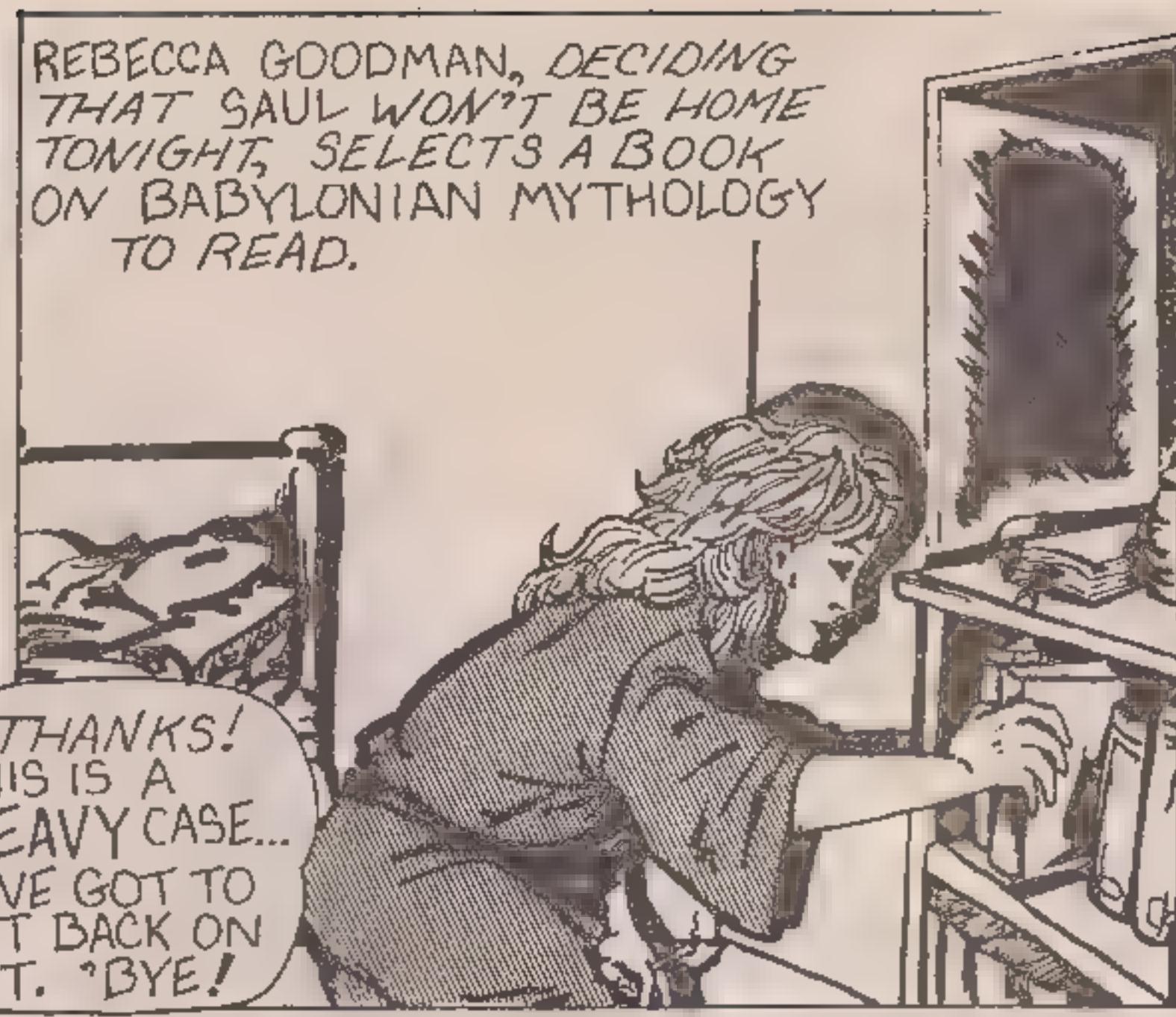
YOU'RE GOING TOO FAST, SAUL.

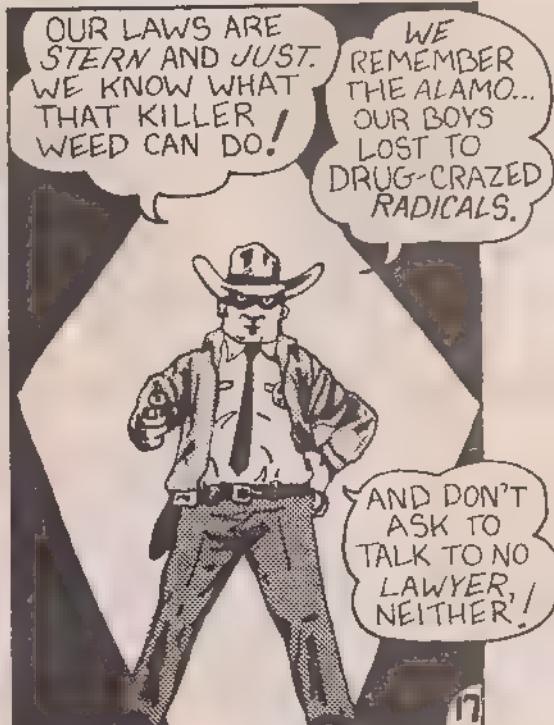
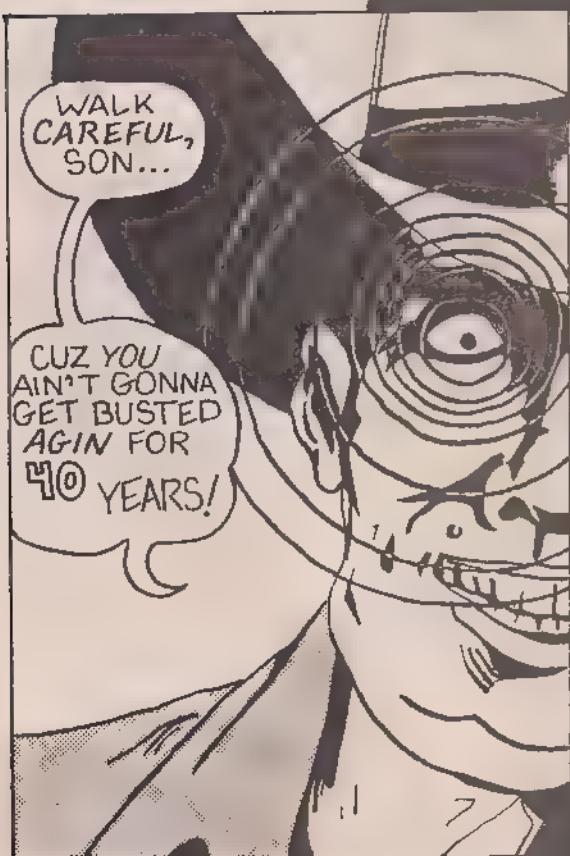
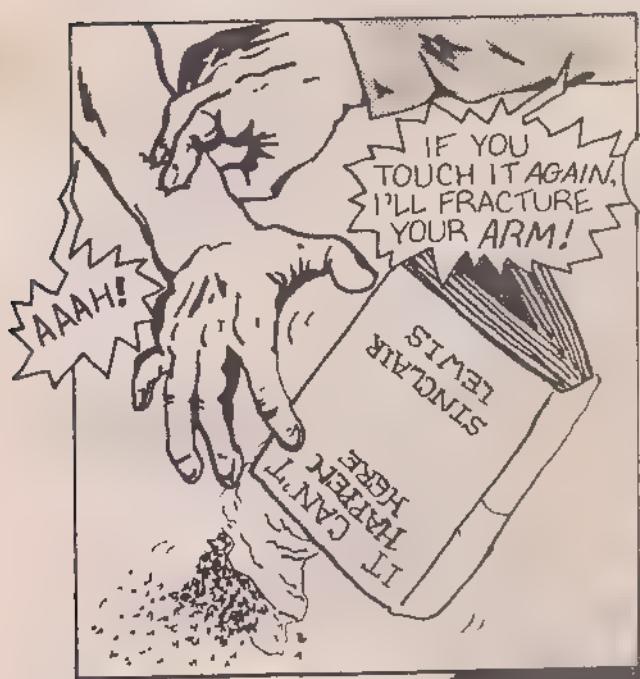


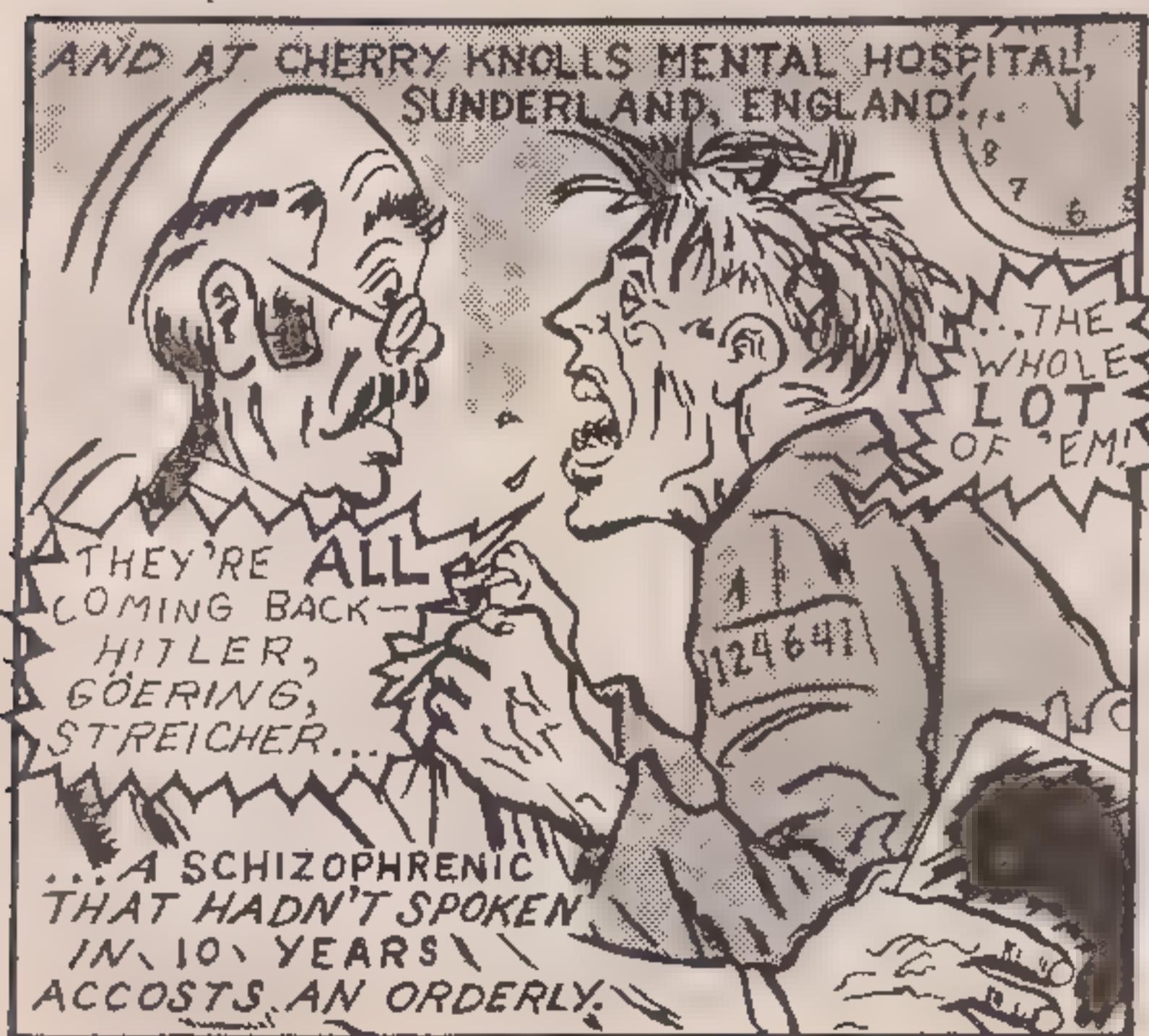
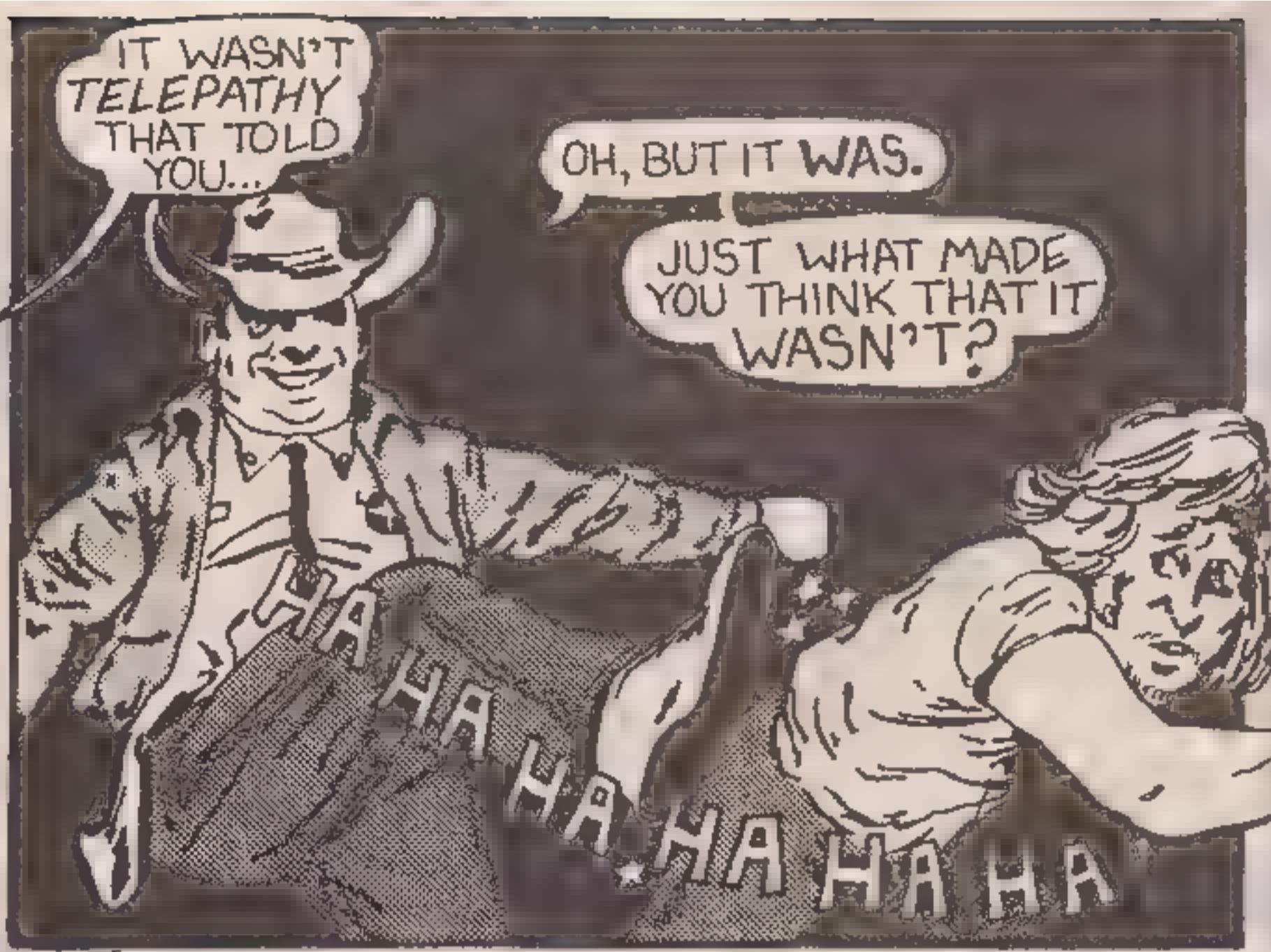
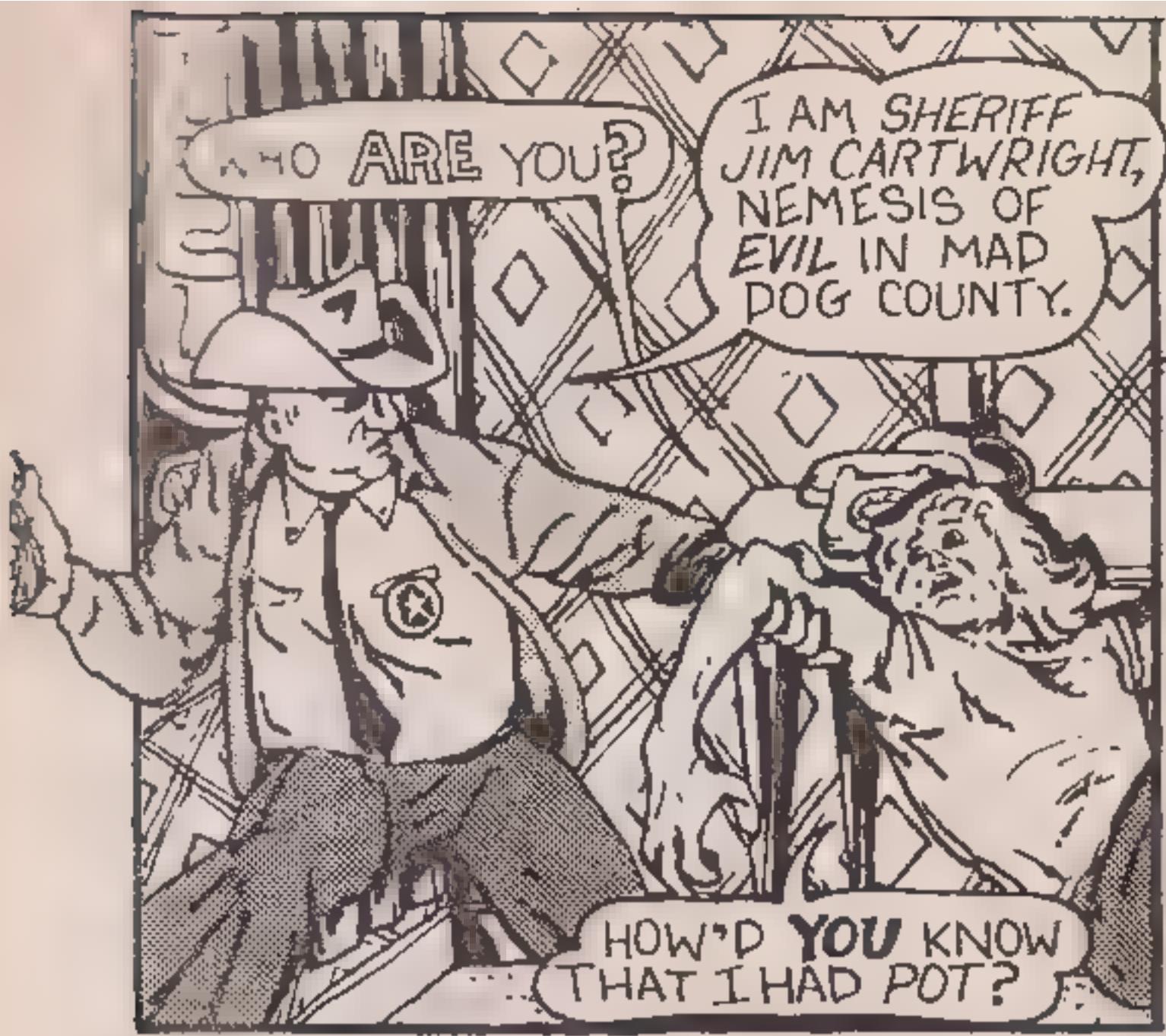
13



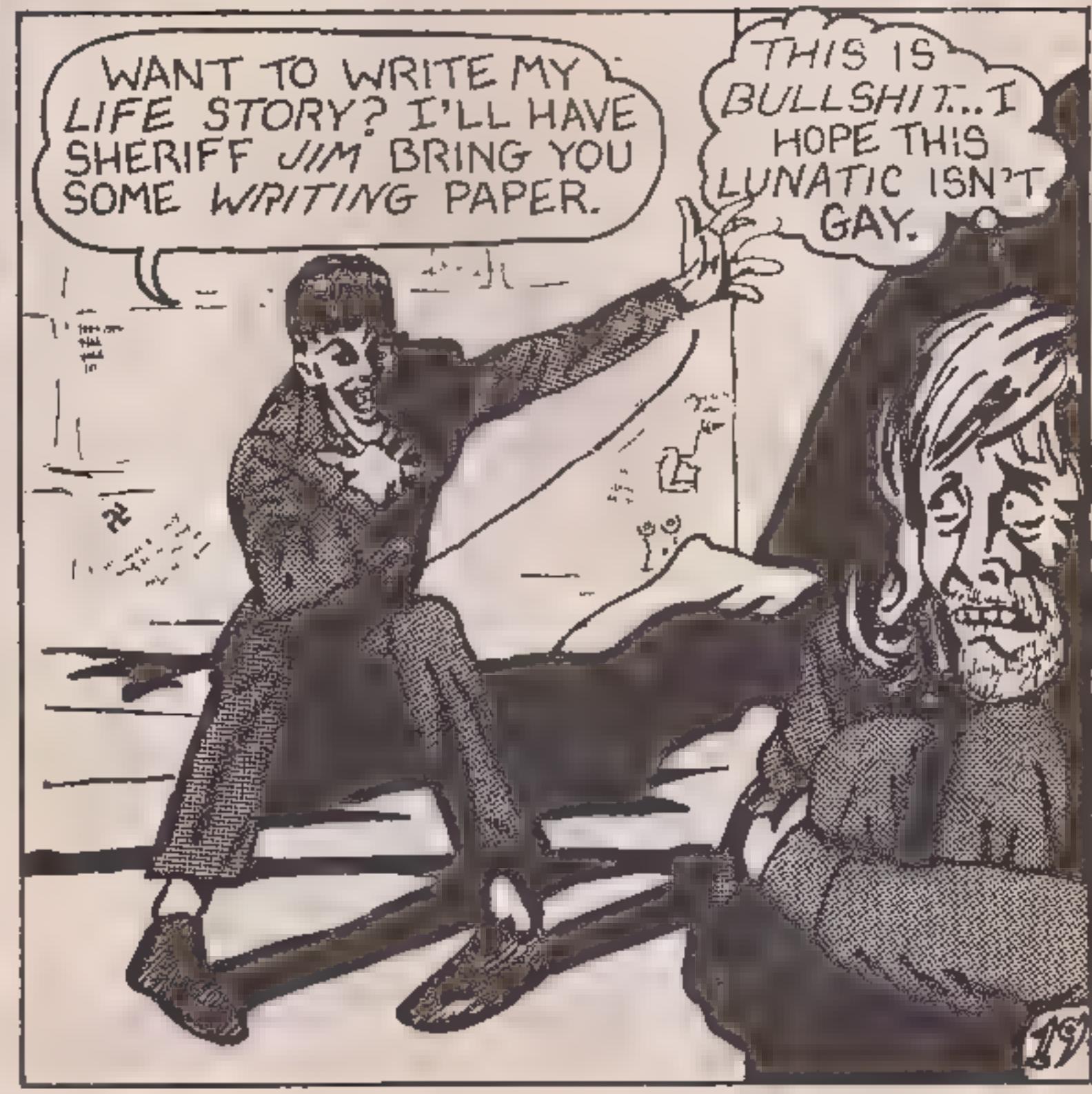




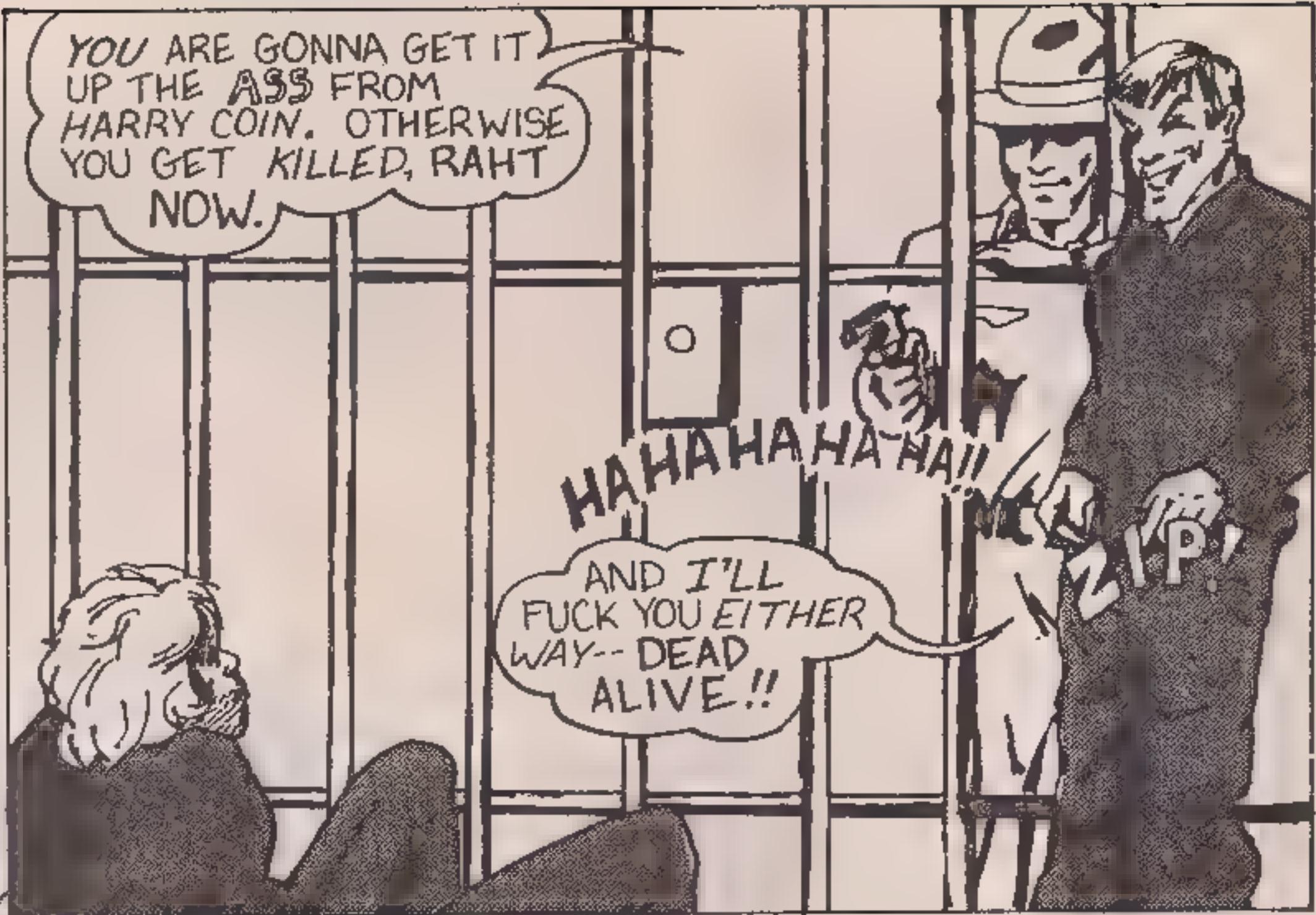


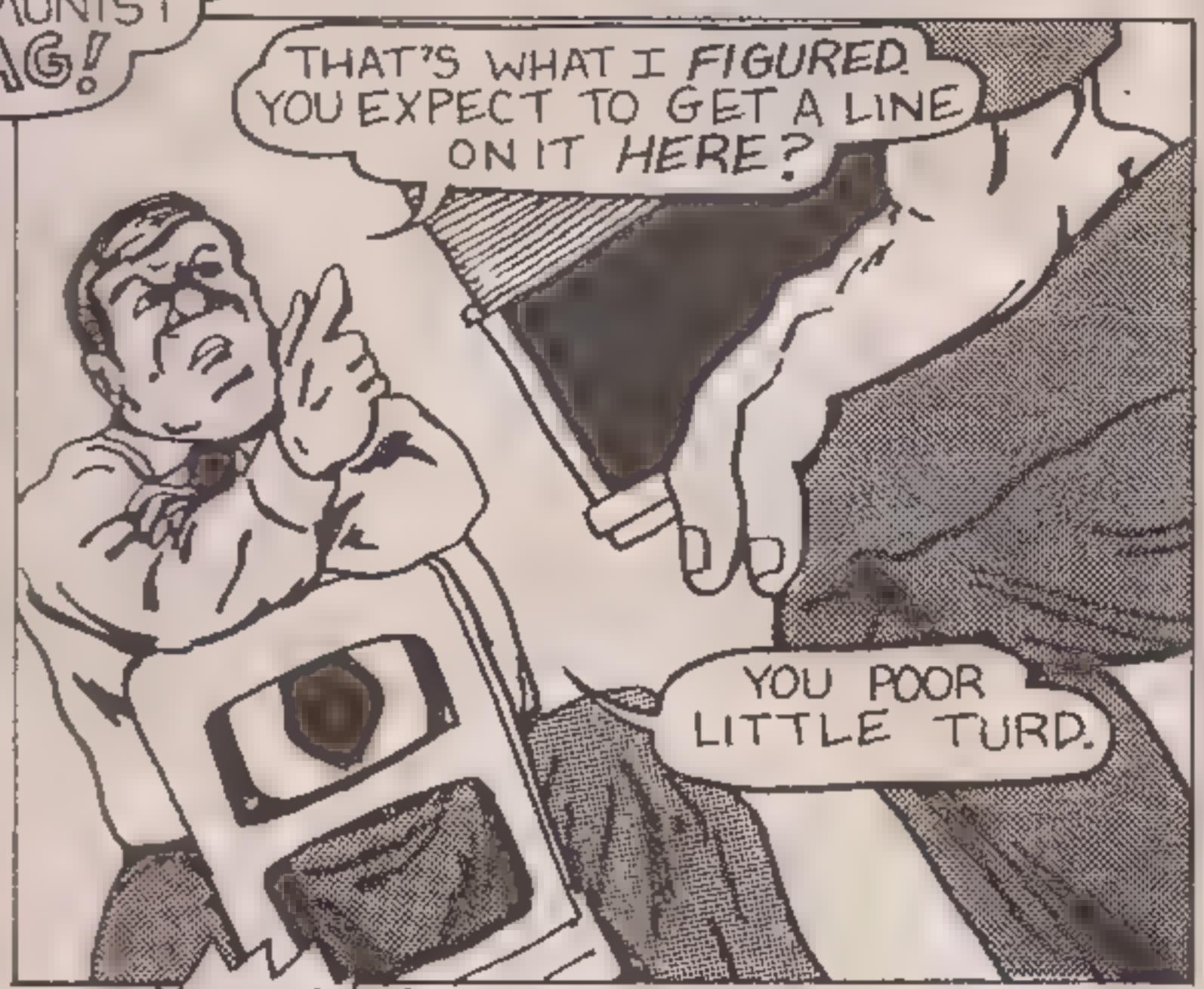
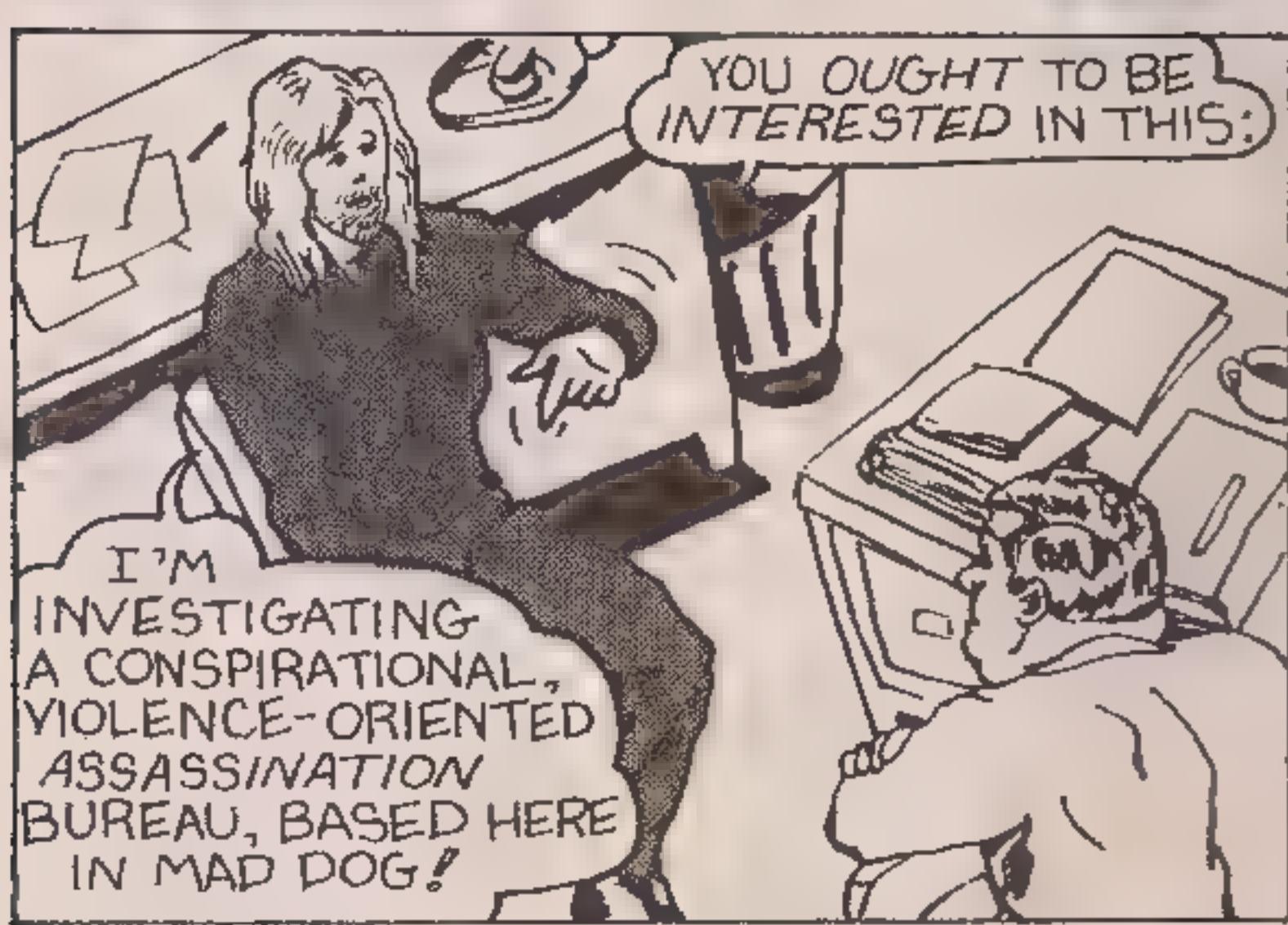
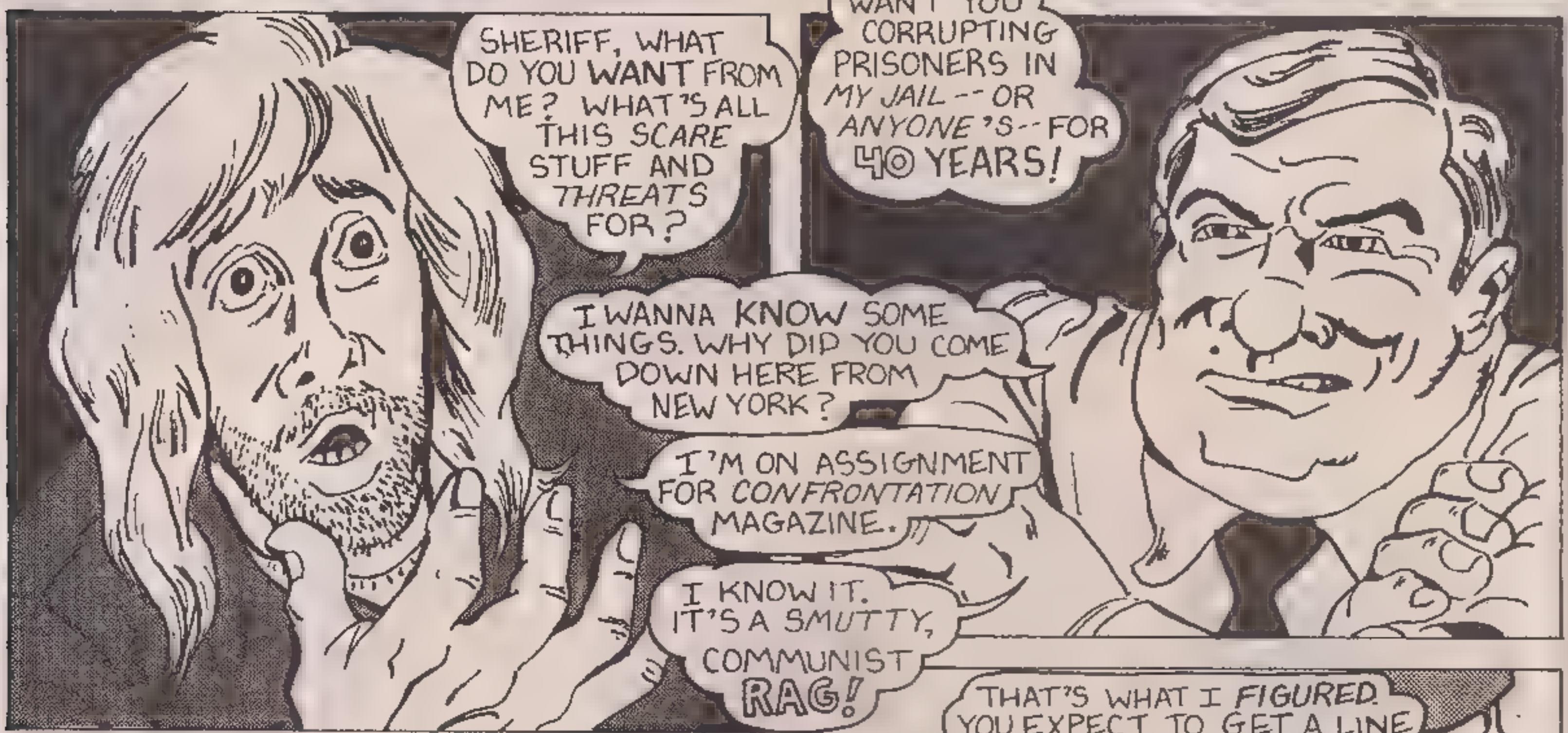
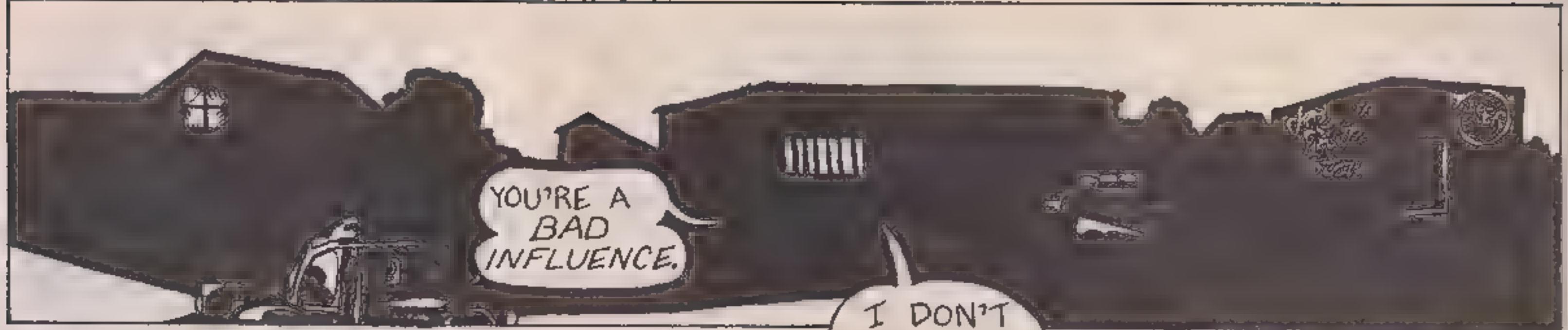


APRIL 24, MAD DOG COUNTY JAIL, A FEW HOURS AFTER MIDNIGHT:

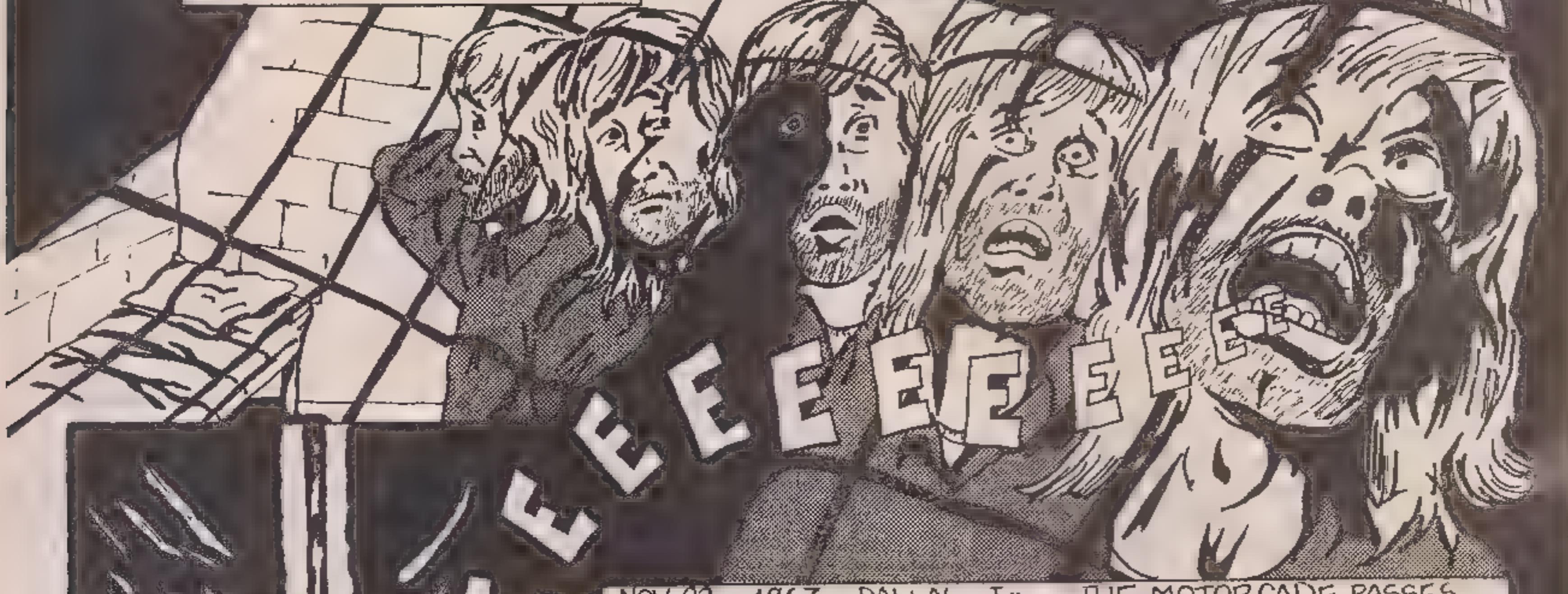




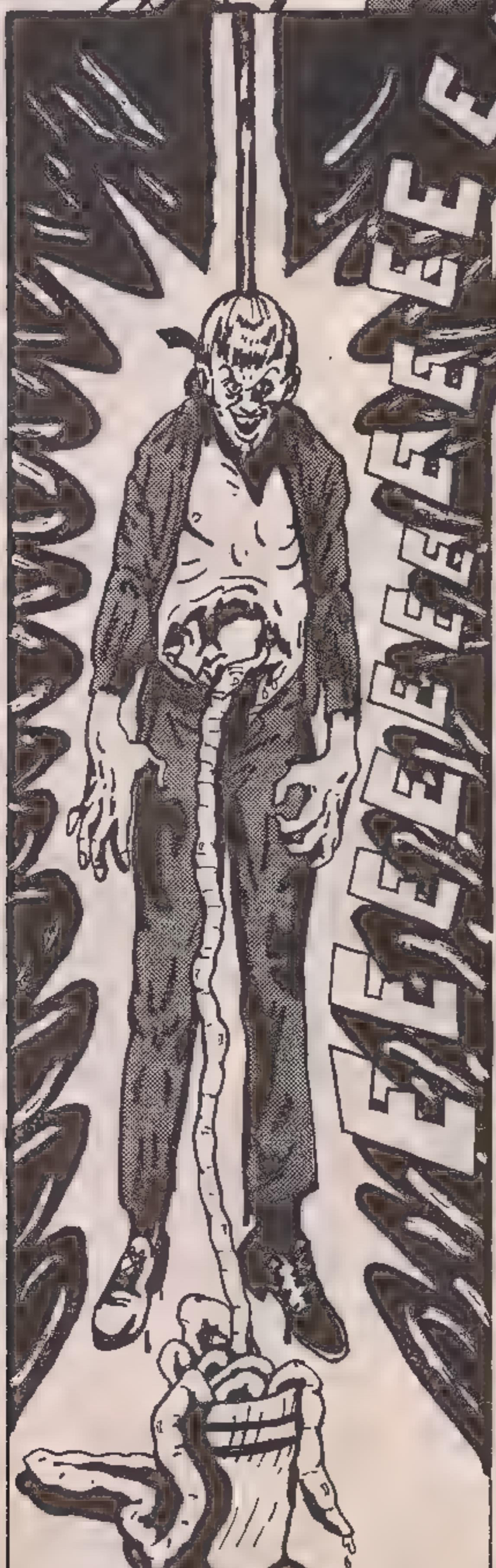




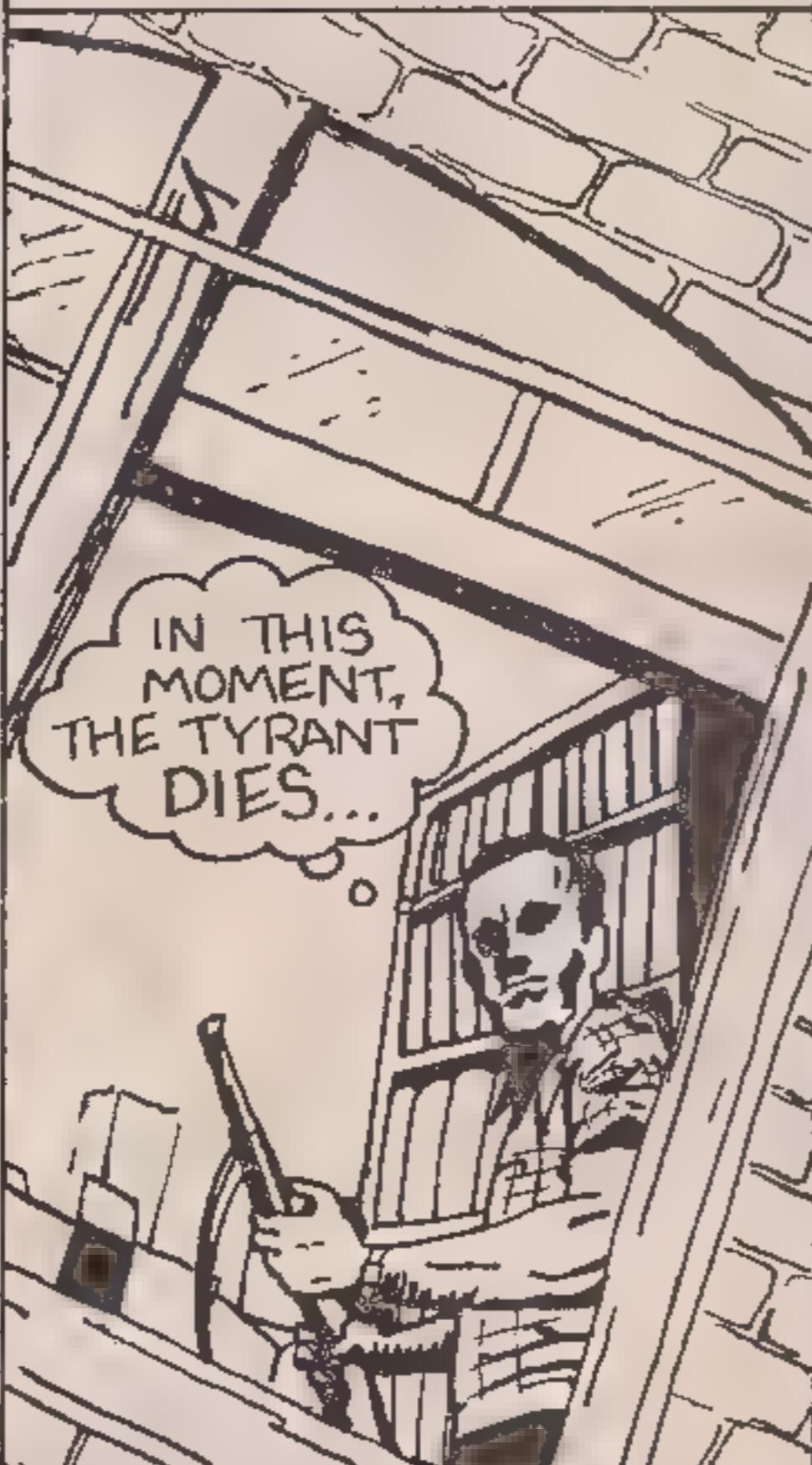
HARRY COIN WASN'T THERE.
THE CELL WAS EMPTY.
THE GUARD HAD VANISHED
LIKE HERMES.



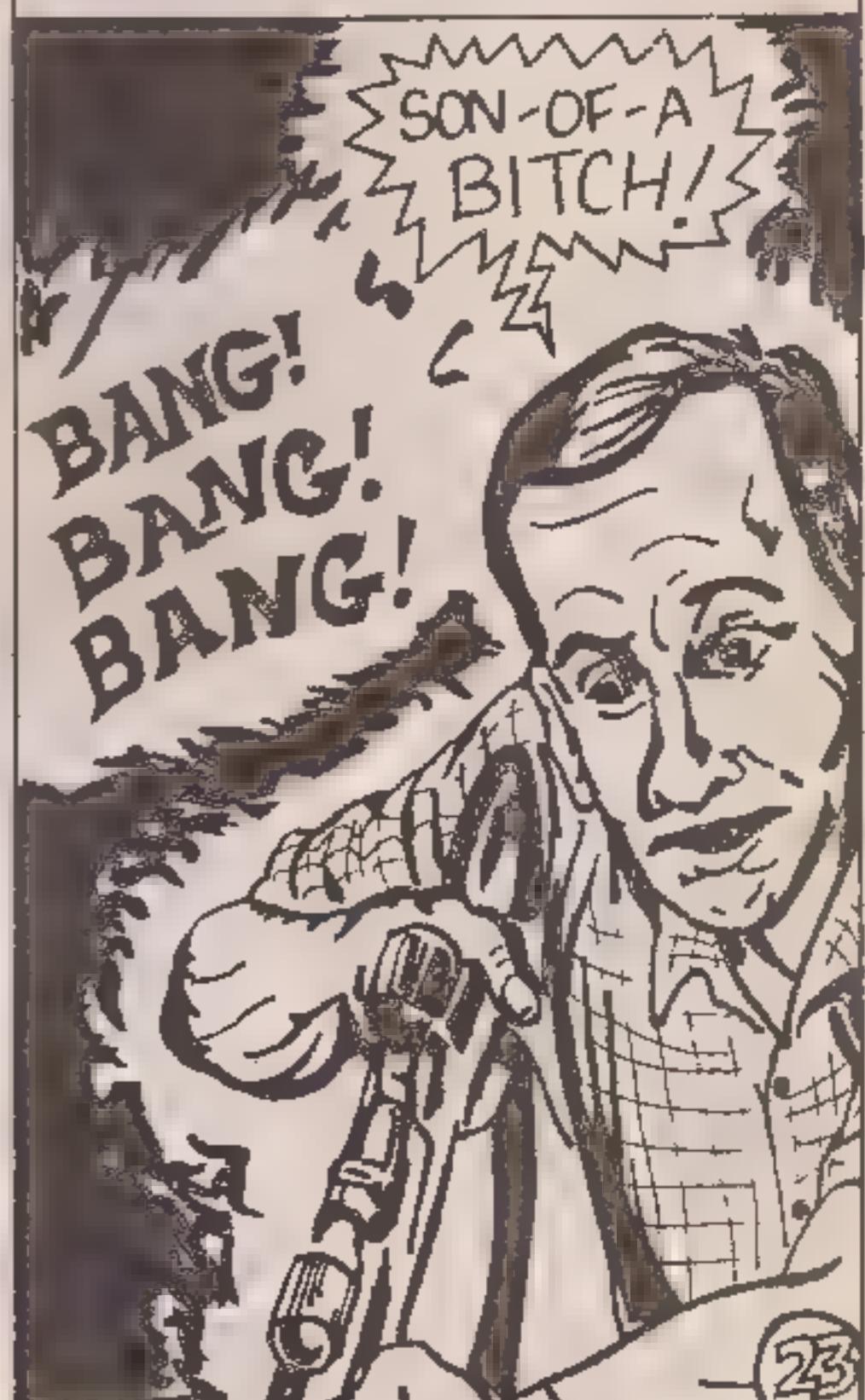
NOV. 22, 1963, DALLAS, TX.: THE MOTORCADE PASSES
THE TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY & MOVES SLOWLY
TOWARD THE TRIPLE UNDERPASS.



LEE HARVEY OSWALD SIGHTS THROUGH THE CARCANO-MANNLICHER.



HE STARTS TO SQUEEZE,
WHEN THREE SHOTS
RING OUT FROM THE
DIRECTION OF THE
GRASSY KNOLL.



FROM THEN UNTIL JACK RUBY PUMPED
TWO BULLETS INTO HIM, OSWALD'S FACE
HELD A SMIRK THAT READ: "I KNOW SOMETHING
YOU DON'T!"



BUT PART OF THE
SECRET HAD ALREADY
LEFT DALLAS FRIDAY,
LISTED ON THE FLIGHT
MANIFEST TO L.A. AS
"FRANK SULLIVAN?"



APRIL 30, LAKE TOTENKOPF, AUSTRIA;

= WALPURGISNACHT:

WOODSTOCK EUROPA... THE LAST & FINAL
WALPURGISNACHT, AND ADAM WEISHAUPP'S
EROTION FINALLY REALIZED...

IT'S A YOUNG PEOPLE'S
LEAGUE OF NATIONS!

UP THERE,
DIE LORELEI
WAS SUPPOSED
TO SING HER
SONGS.

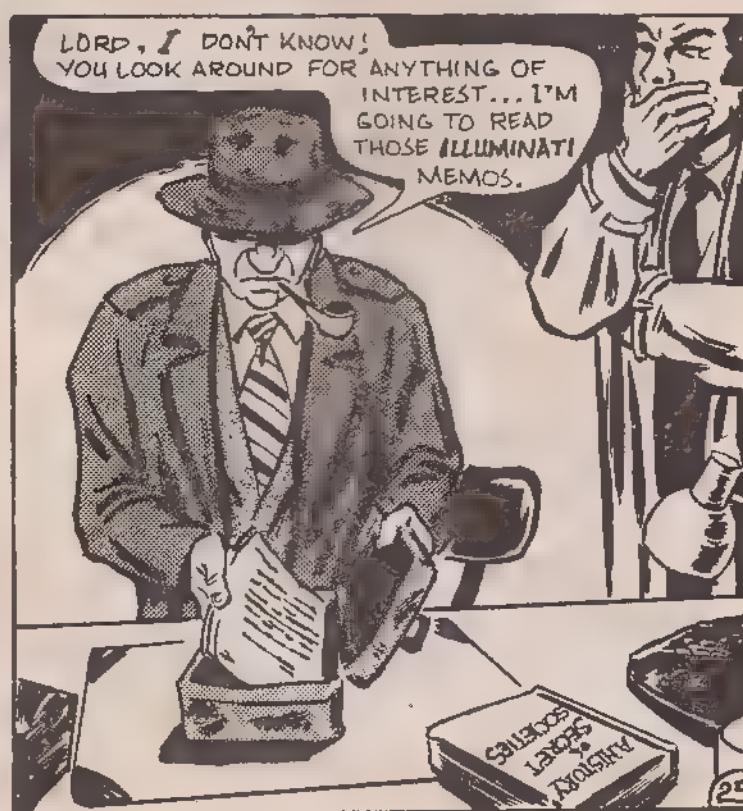
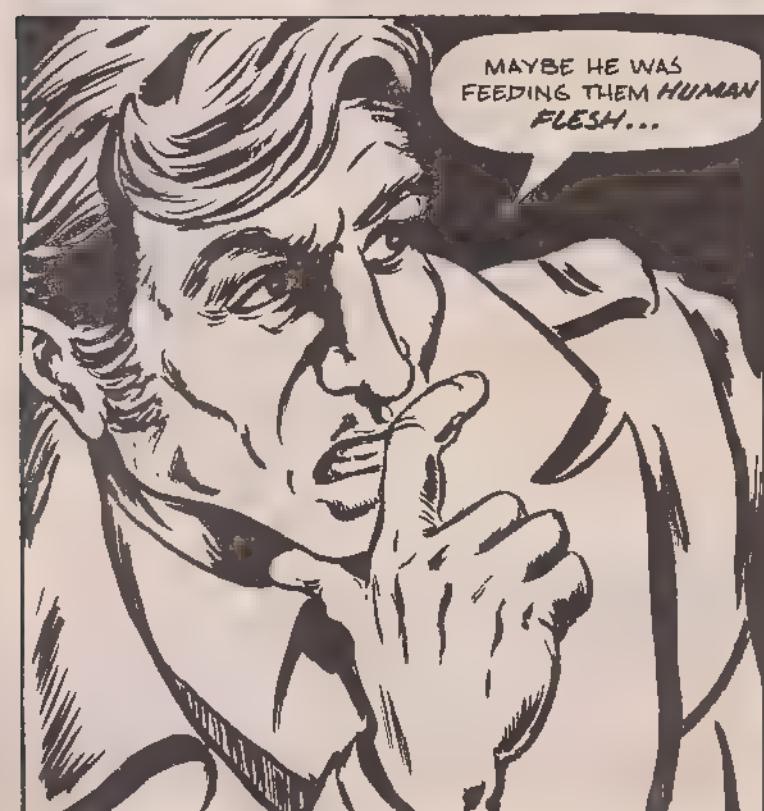
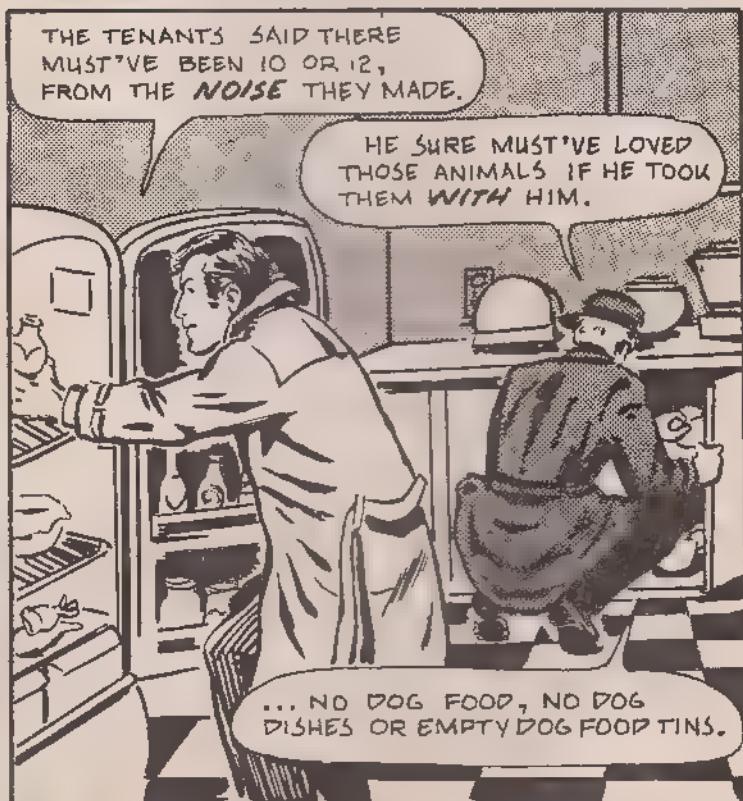
AND WILL THEY
ALL COME BACK?

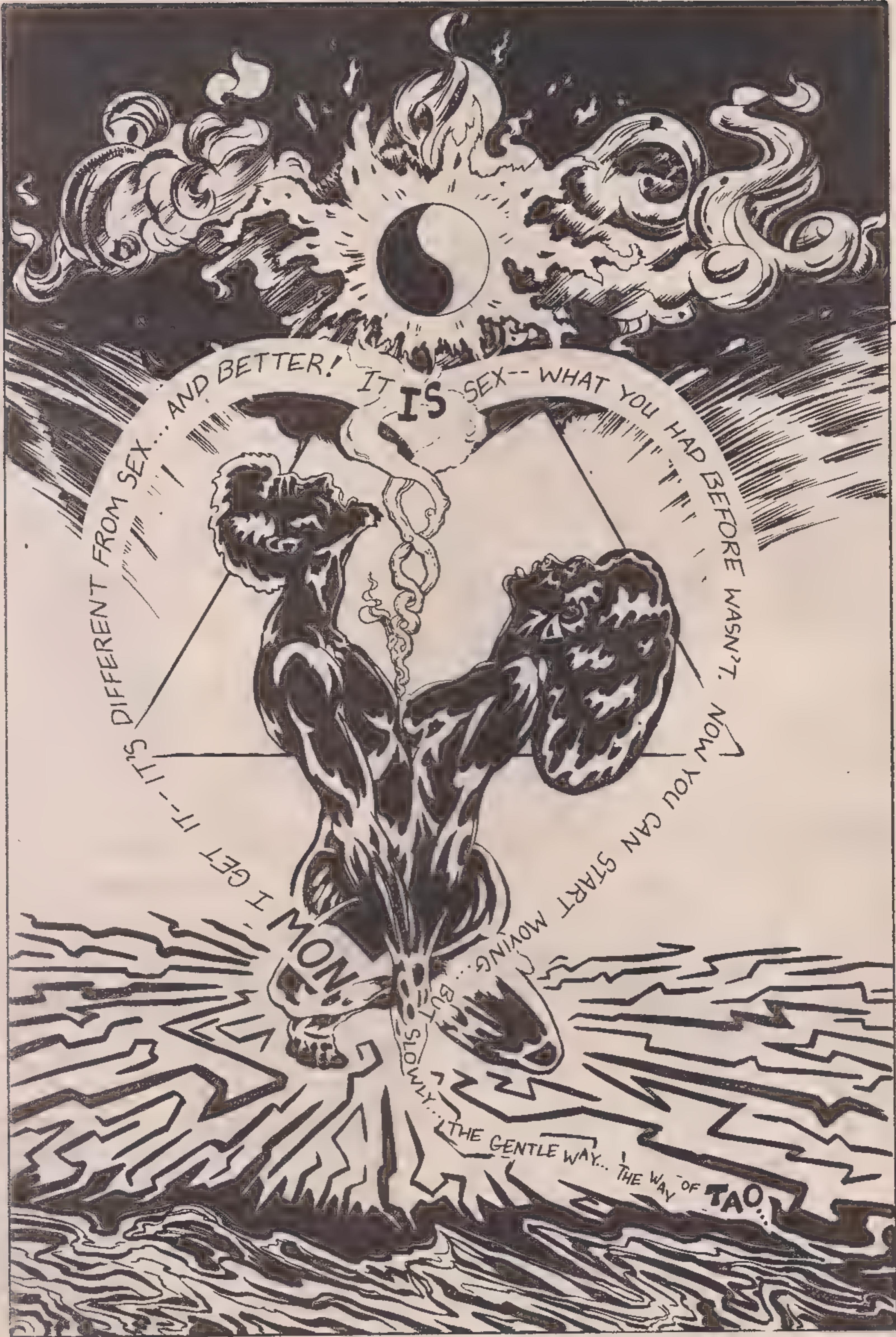
ALL OF
THEM, WHEN
THE BEAT
REACHES
THE PROPER
INTENSITY...
UNLESS WE
CAN STOP
IT.

THERE'LL BE
DEADLIER MUSIC ON
THE DANUBE TONIGHT!

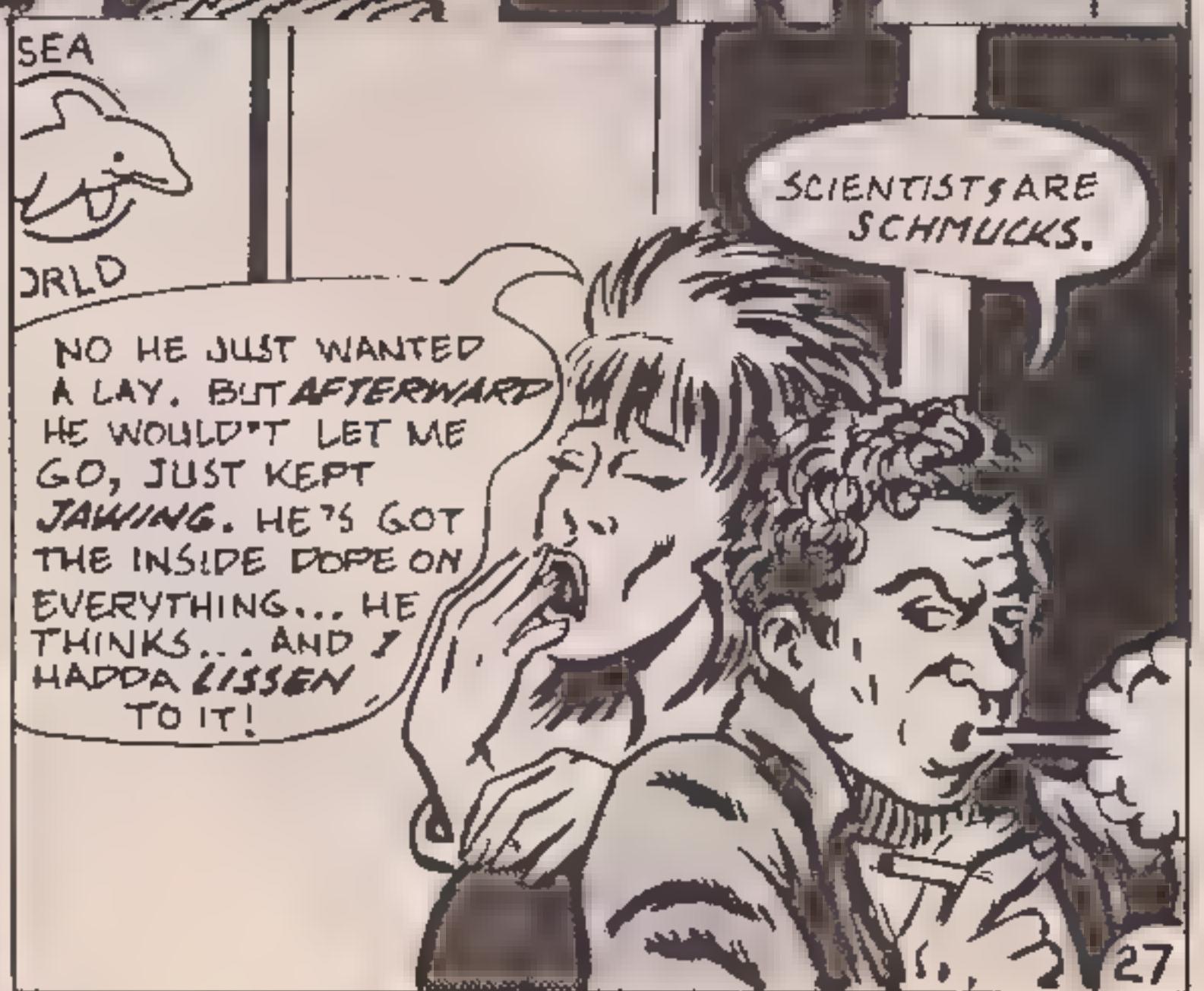
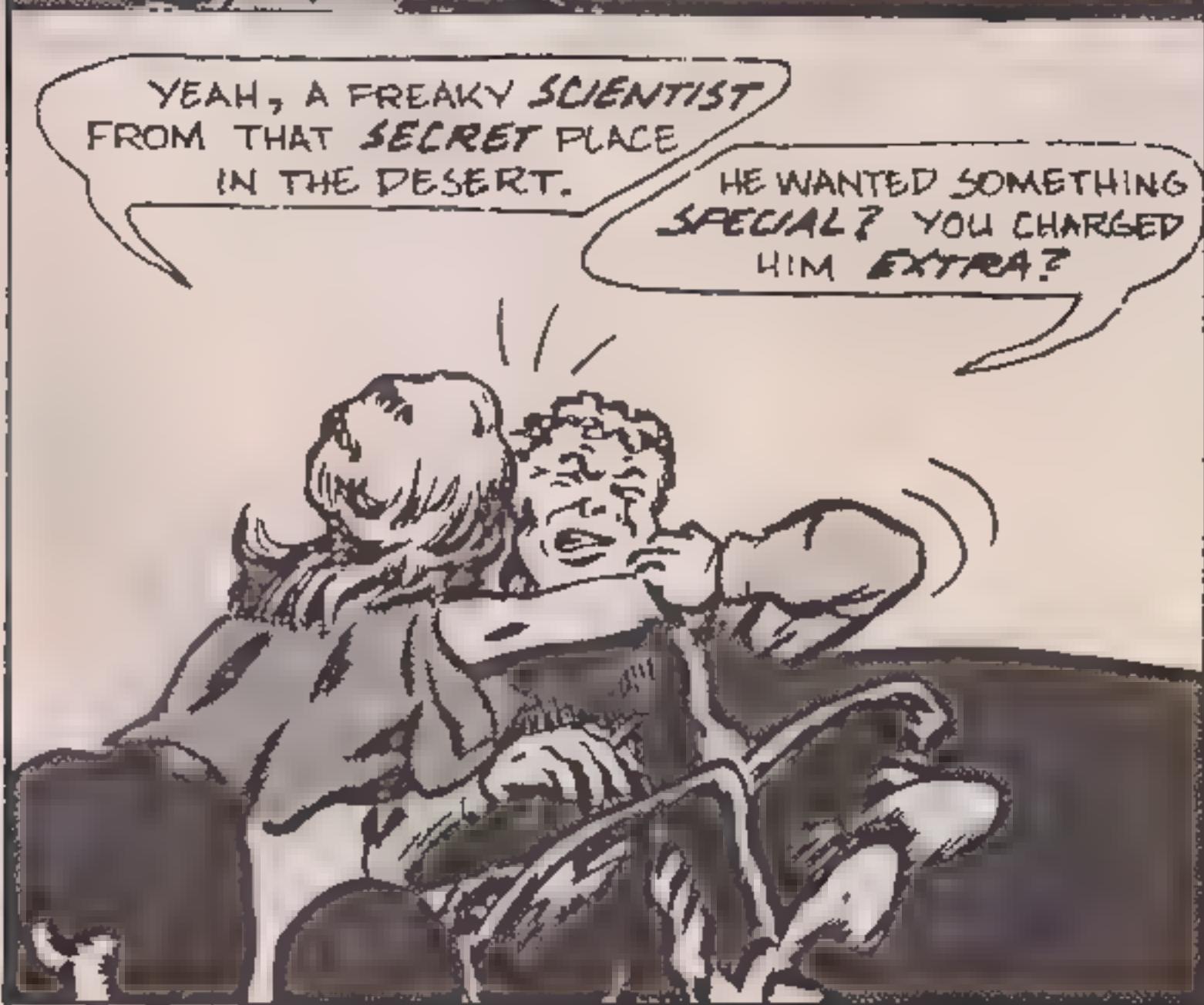
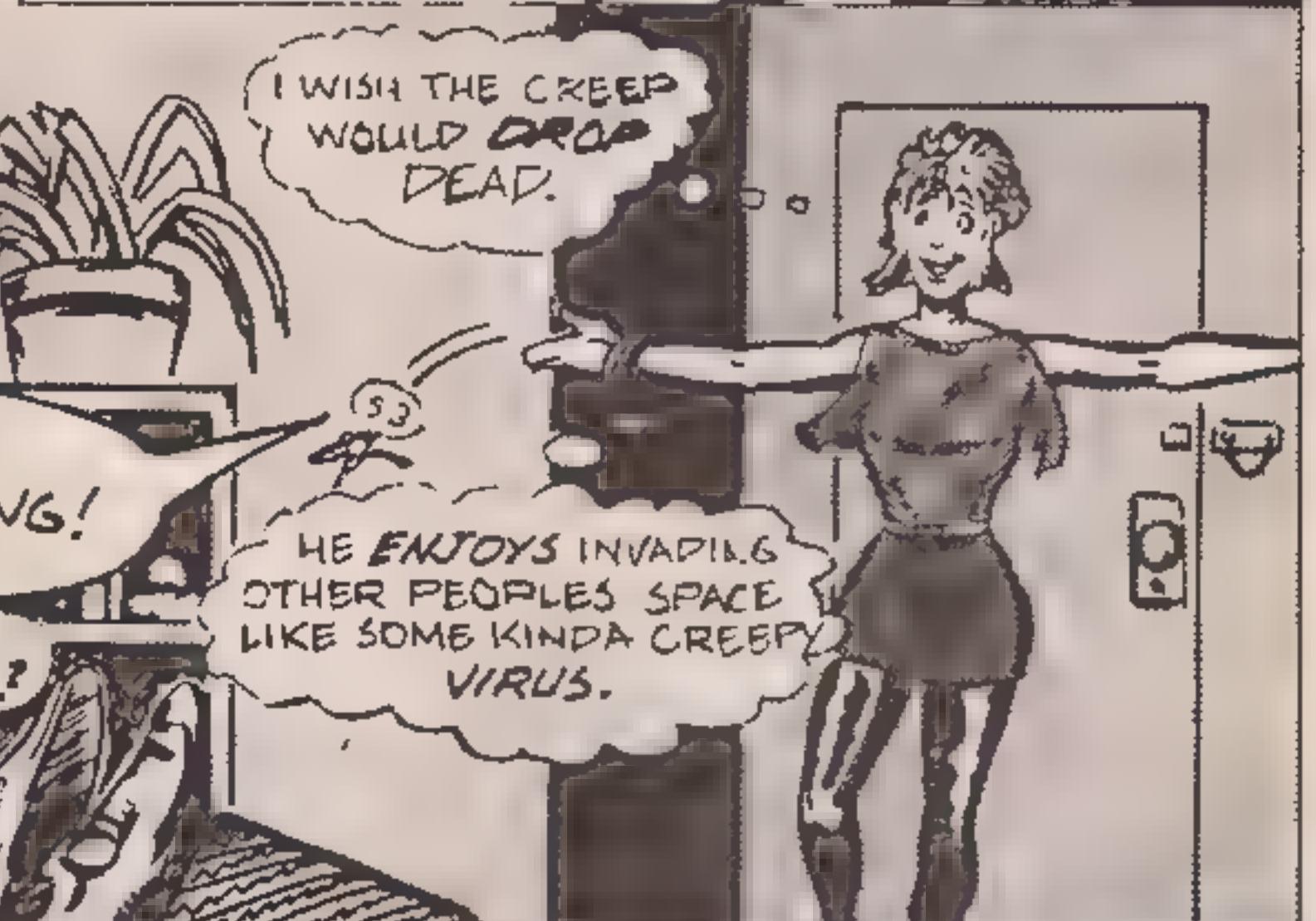
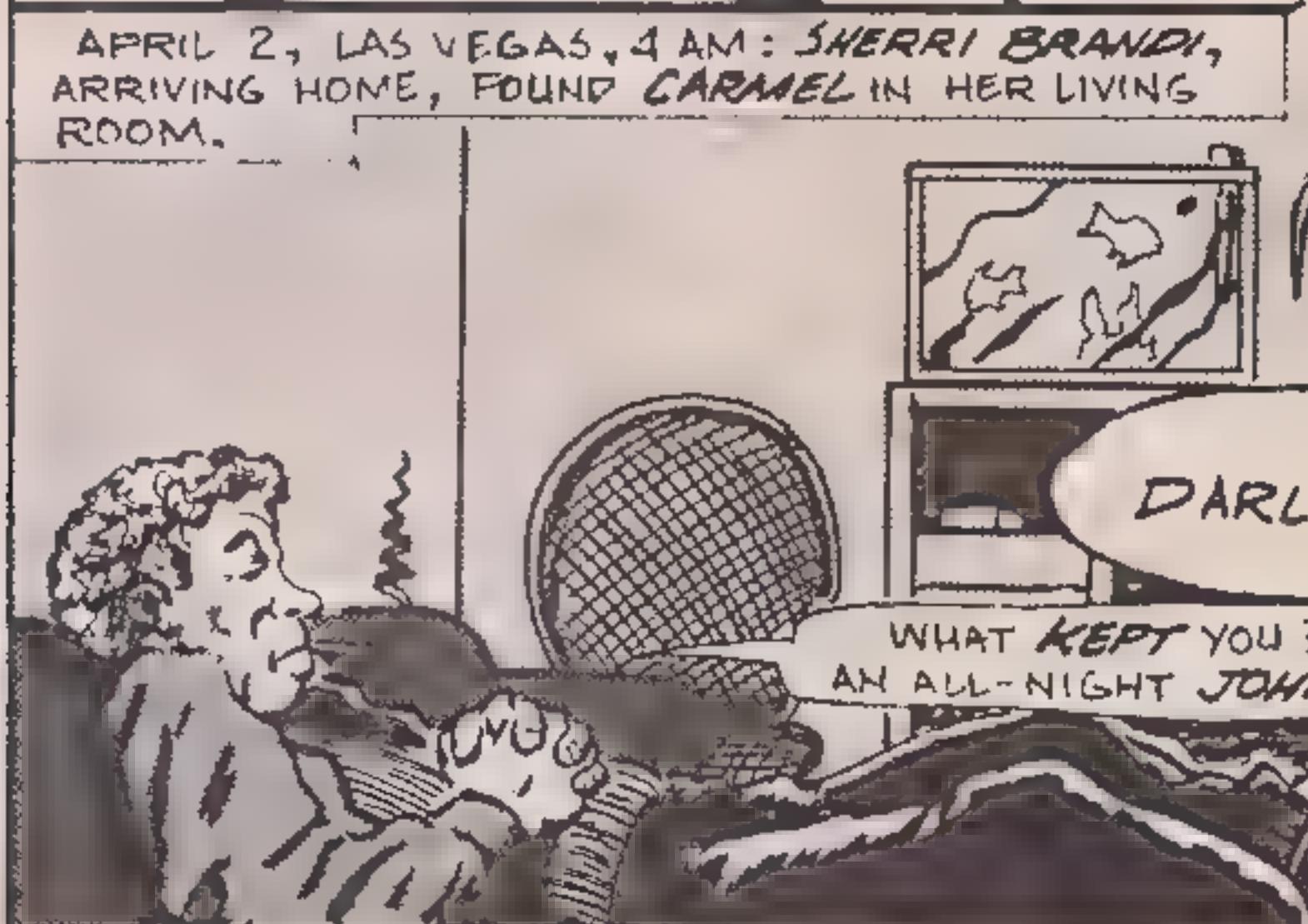
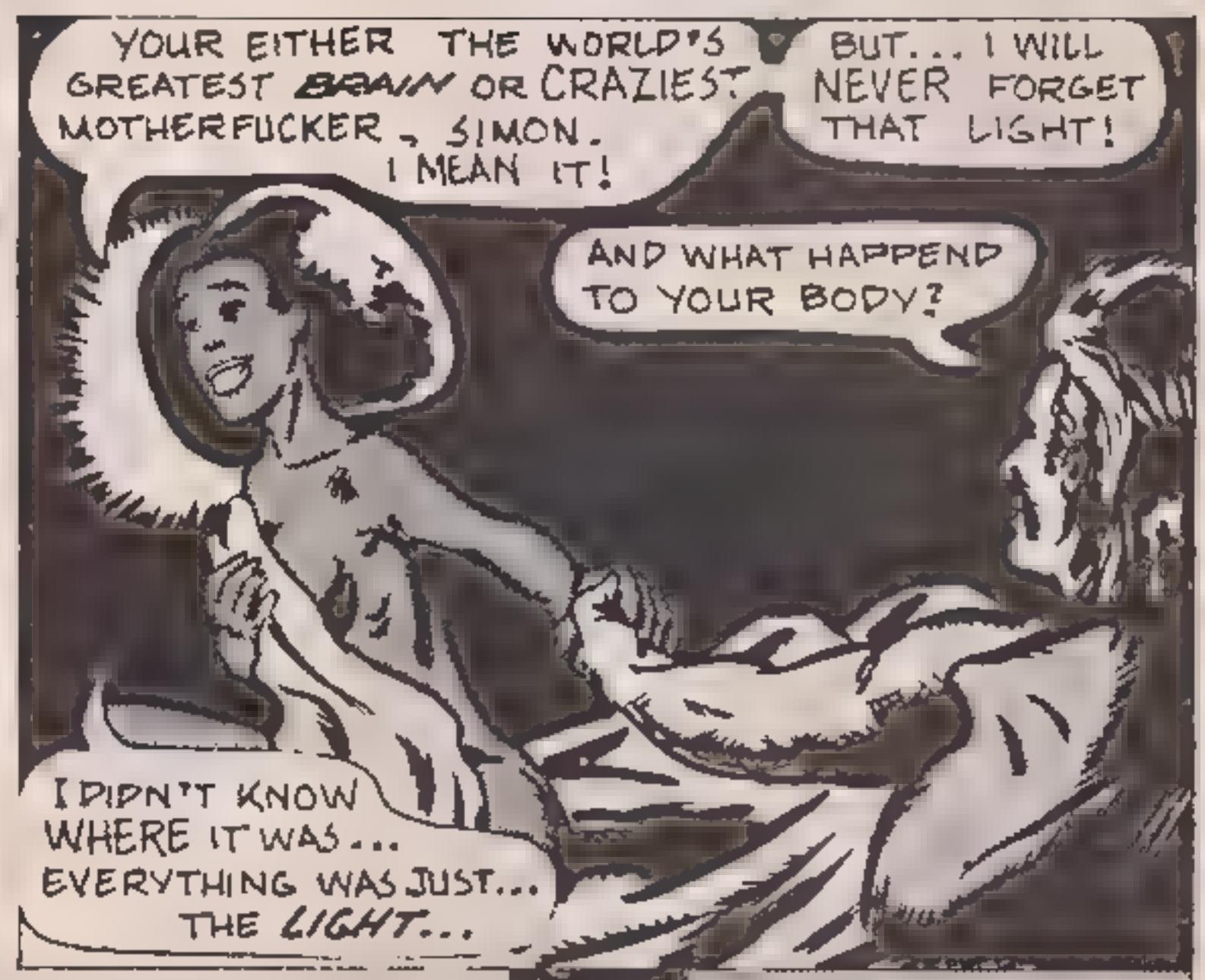
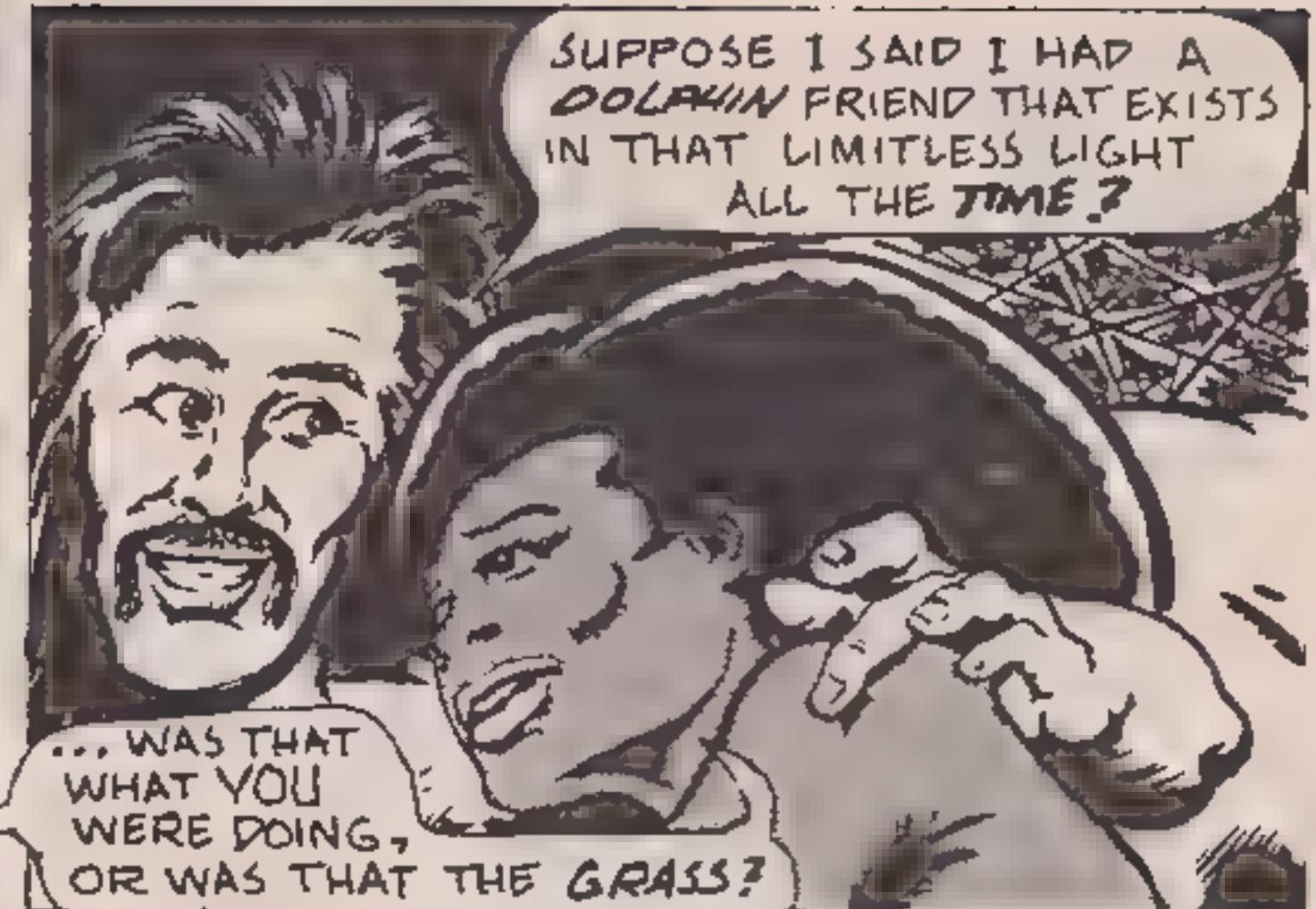
BUT THIS IS STILL SEVEN
DAYS IN THE FUTURE...

APRIL 24, NEW YORK CITY: JUST BEFORE JACKSON LEFT, THE CALL CAME FROM HQ = 2 FBI AGENTS WOULD BE COMING TO HELP THEM...





LATER, SLOWLY, MARY LOU SWAM BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS, LIKE A SHIPWRECK VICTIM REACHING A RAFT...



HE DON'T LIVE ON BASE...
HE KEPT ON JUMPING UP
AND ACTING LIKE HE WAS
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING...

BUGS! PROBABLY
KEEPS TAKING 'EM OUT
AND THE FBI KEEPS PUT-
TING IN NEW ONES!

CHARLEY'D RAVED ABOUT
FLOURIDATION 'N STUFF
IN THE WATER, BUT HE'D
REALLY BEEN THINKING
OF MICROBES!

I READ ABOUT MICROBES
IN THE ENQUIRER. IF THEY
HAVE AN ACCIDENT OUT THERE
THE WHOLE TOWN GOES--AND
GOD KNOWS WHAT ELSE!

GERM WARFARE!?

BUGS—
THAT'S IT!!

I'LL BET THE RUSSIANS ARE
TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT'S
GOING ON OUT THERE--

HOW DO YOU MEET
A COMMIE SPY?

CARMEL!
YOU CAN'T
SELL OUT
YOUR OWN
COUNTRY!

THE HELL I CAN'T!!
THE STATUE OF LIBERTY IS JUST
ANOTHER BROAD— I'LL TAKE WHAT
I CAN GET FOR HER!
DON'T BE A FOOL!

I'LL BET SOMEBODY IN THE MOB
WILL KNOW HOW TO CONTACT
A SPY !!

THERE HAS TO BE
SOME WAY OF
CASHING IN ON
THIS !!

SMACK!



WONDERFUL AS IT WAS *SOME OF IT WAS SCARY.*

ALL THOSE HALLUCINATIONS... I THOUGHT
I MIGHT BE LOSING MY MIND.

...IF THAT WAS REAL, EVERYTHING ELSE
IN MY LIFE'S BEEN A HALLUCINATION...

NOW YOU'RE GETTING THE POINT...

MARCH 17,
BRITISH INTELLIGENCE HQ:

...THE YANKS THINK THE
COMMUNISTS ARE BEHIND
THIS TEQUILLA Y MOTA
SWINE...

... AND ARE THREATEN-
ING WAR.

I'M TO HOP TO
FERNANDO POO,
CHECK THE
BLOKE OUT,
AND OVER-
THROW HIM
IF
NECESSARY?

THAT'S THE ASSIGNMENT.
WE CAN'T HAVE A
NUCLEAR WAR WHEN
THE COMMON MARKET'S
FINALLY STARTING TO
WORK.

IF YOU'RE CAPTURED,
WE WILL DISAVOW ANY
KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR
ACTIVITIES.

I WISH FOR ONCE
YOU'D STAND
BEHIND ME IN
A TIGHT SPOT.

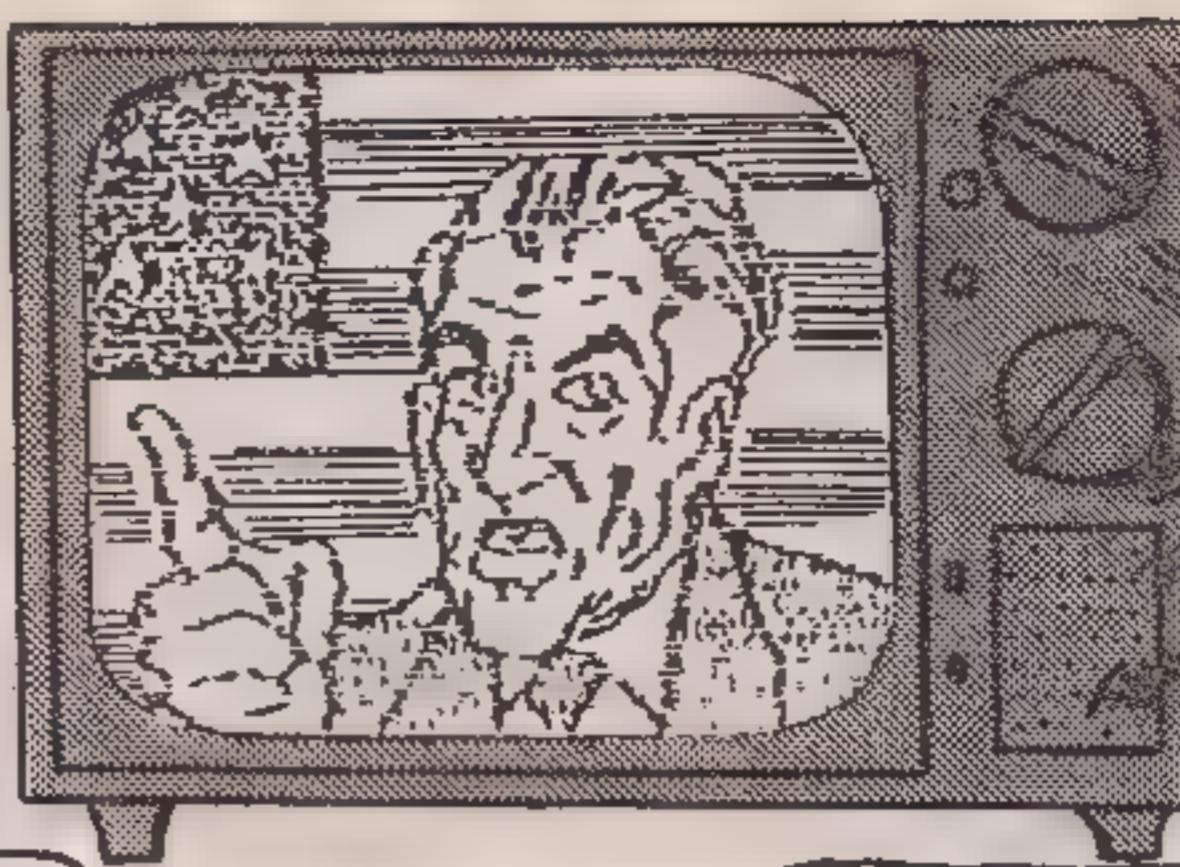
AGENT 00005 LEFT
W'S OFFICE TO BEGIN
HIS PREPARATIONS.
HIS FIRST STEP...

... WAS TO FIND WHICH BAR IN SANTA ISOBEL
SERVED SUITABLE MARTINIS AND WHICH
RESTAURANT ACCEPTABLE LOBSTER NEWBERG.
TO HIS HORROR, FERNANDO POO'S CAPITOL WAS
BEREFT OF SOCIAL GRACES.

I SAY, THIS IS GOING TO
BE A BIT THICK!

BUT HE CHEERED UP QUICKLY,
KNOWING FERNANDO POO WOULD BE
EQUIPPED WITH A BEVY OF TAWNY-
SKINNED OR COFFEE COLORED
FEMALES THAT WERE THE
HOLY GRAIL TO HIM.

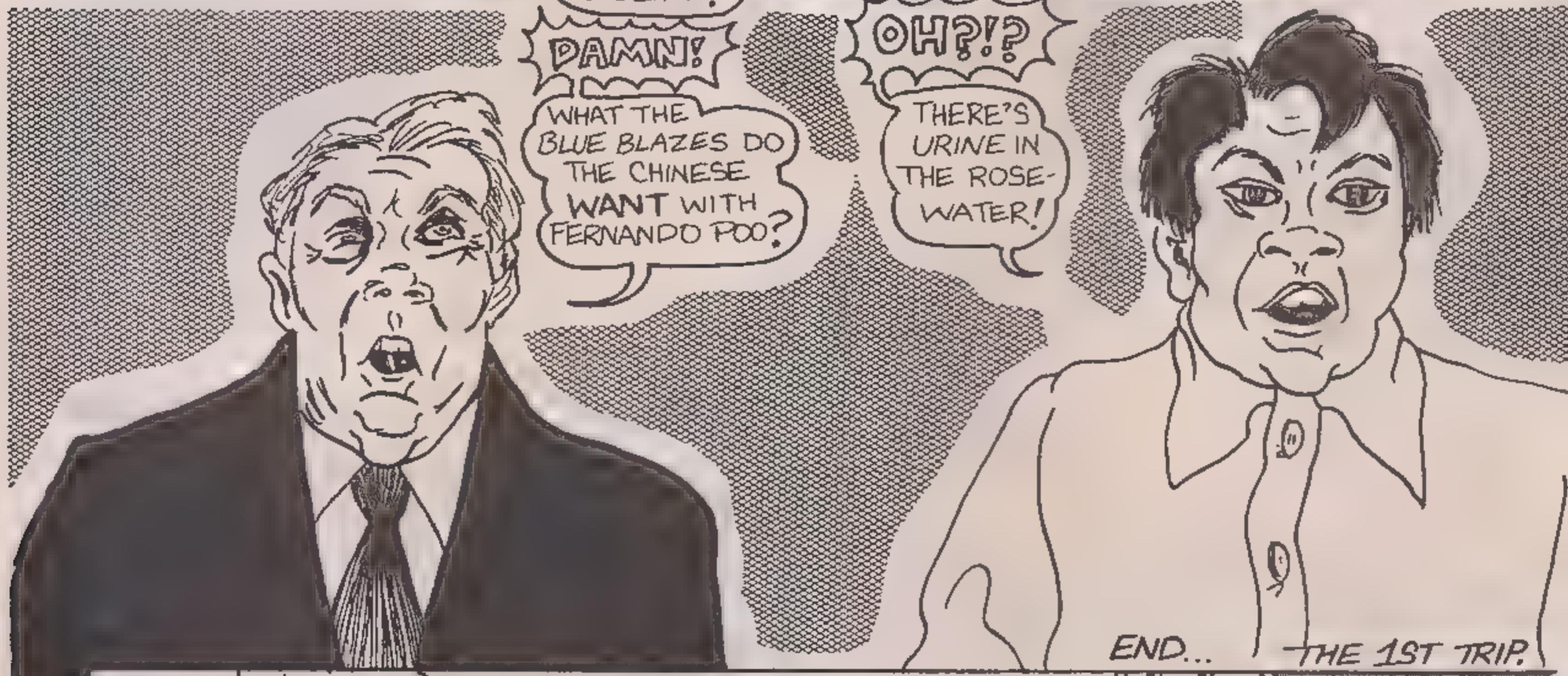
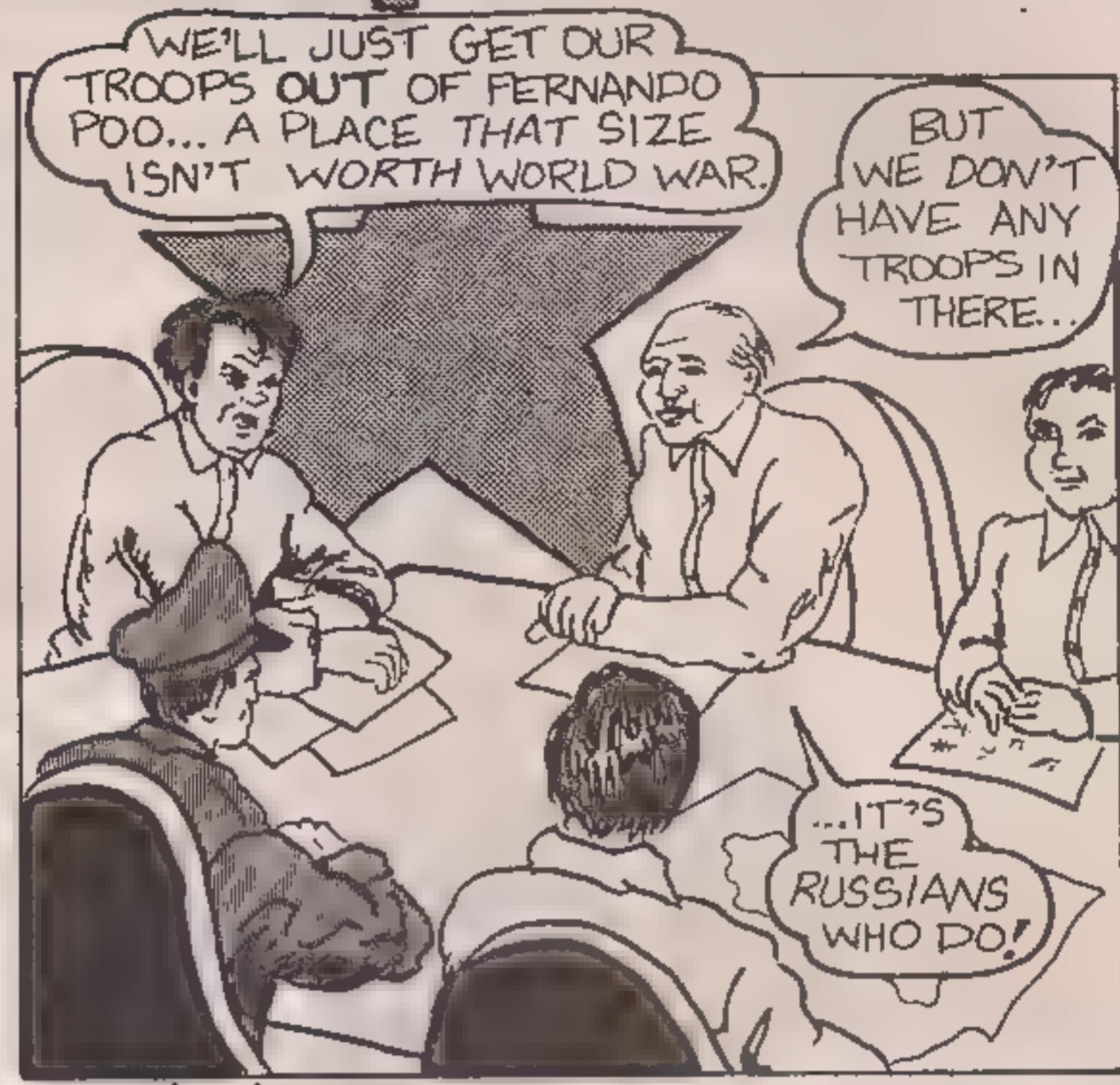
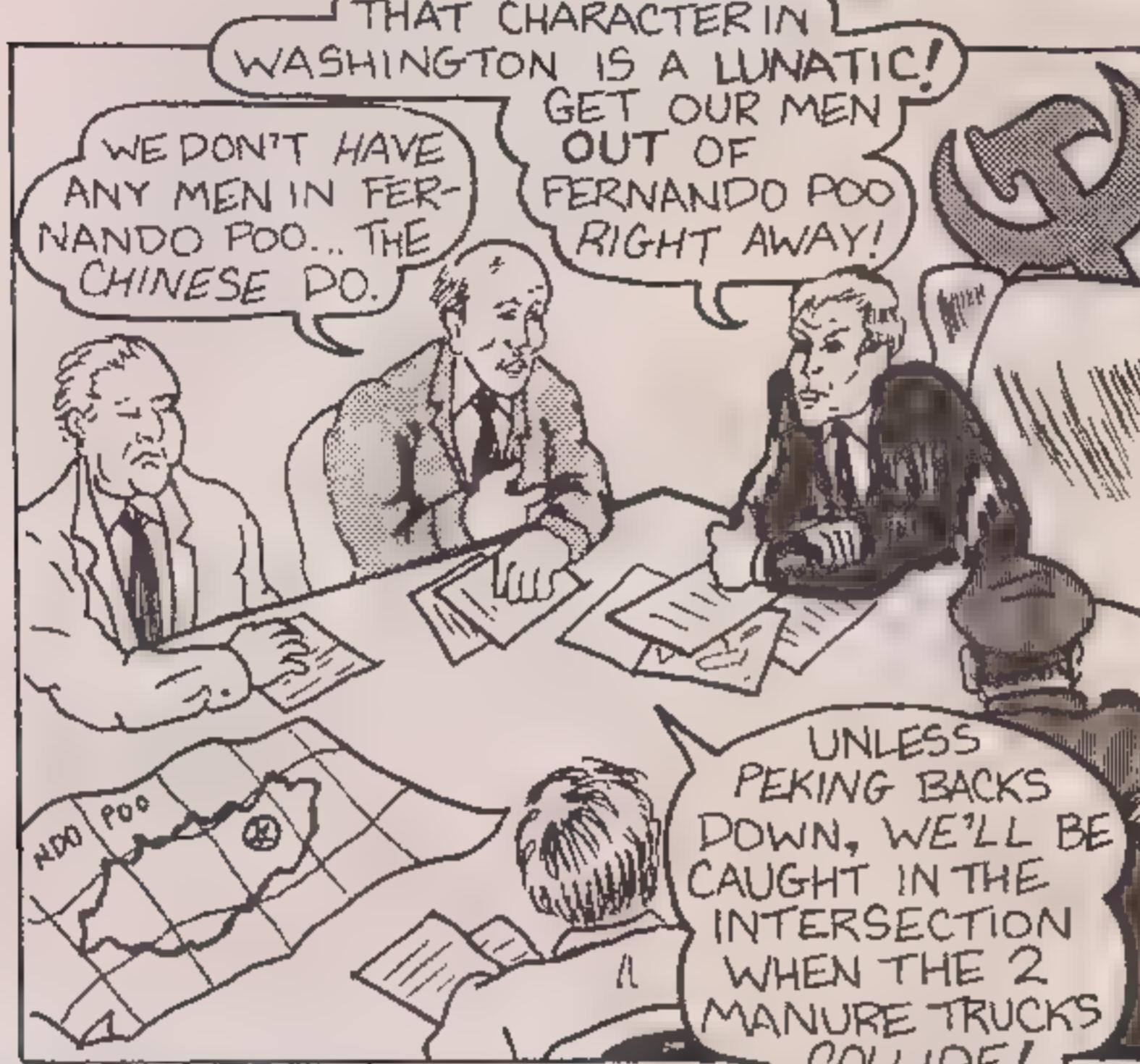
10:30 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, MARCH 31: THE PRESIDENT GAVE THE COMMUNISTS 24 HOURS TO GET OUT OF FERNANDO POO.



THIS IS DARN SERIOUS! AMERICA WILL NOT SHIRK ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE OF FERNANDO POO!

PEKING, APRIL 1:

MOSCOW, 10 AM, APRIL 1:

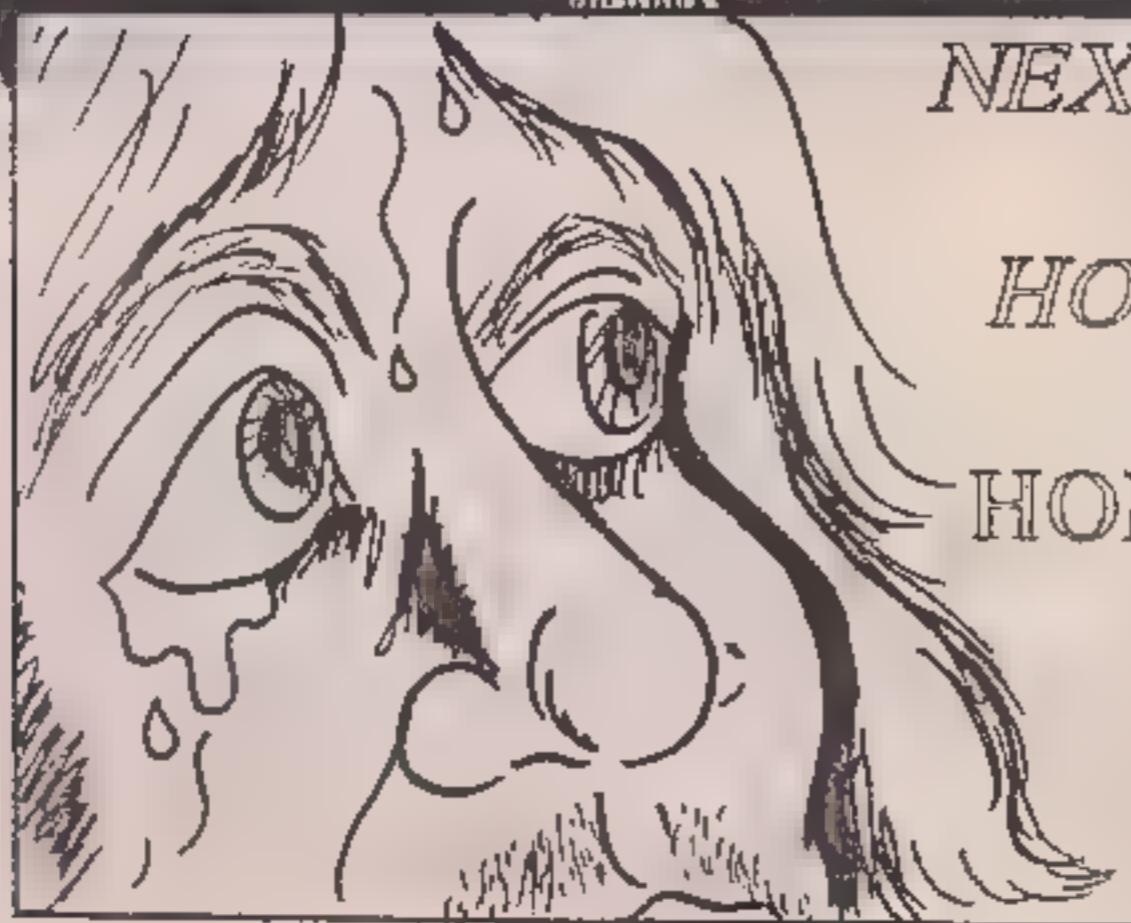


NEXT: THE 2ND TRIP, OR

HOKMAH: HOPALONG

HORUS RIDES AGAIN!

YOUR TURN, GEORGE!



(Continued from inside front cover...)

I hope you got in touch with the Midwest Pagan Council. They're in tune with many Pagan groups in the Chicago area, and throw the Pan Pagan Fest every year. Anyone interested in alternative religious beliefs might want to check this fest out. Our crew is usually there, and (mosquitos and rain this year aside) it's generally a good time. The fest is usually held in August or early September. Anyone wanting to get more info can write:

Midwest Pagan Council
PO Box 313
Matteson, IL 60443-0313

The address I gave last issue was an old one (still able to get the message through, but with a time lag), so please take note.

Also, for those of you interested in the Knights of the Falcon of Malta, it has come to my attention that several people have been claiming that they can initiate Knights around the country without proper authorization—the 4th Degree® Certificate. So if you meet anyone claiming they can initiate you into the KFM, don't believe them unless they can produce a certificate.

Bob Wilson and I have briefly talked about doing adaptations of more of his fiction, but we want to get *Illuminatus!* on its feet first. Bob Shea hasn't said anything about it, but we're willing if he is. As for our own projects, we have plans....

Speaking of Bob Shea:

Dear Mark,

Just got your letter and the materials for #'s 2 and 3 of the *Illuminatus!* comic book.

Al Zuckerman had previously sent me copies of #1, so I've had a chance to look at it. I'm delighted. I think it is very faithful to the novel and does a wonderful job of translating the spirit of the novel into a visual medium. You chose good people to work on the comic book. Please express my gratitude to all of them.

My special gratitude goes to you for conceiving this project and following through on it. I am very impressed.

Can people order copies of the comic book from you directly by mail? Do you have an ad which includes mail-order information? If you have a reproducible copy of such an ad, or any ad that you consider informative, send it to me and I'll try to spread it around.

Also, do we have an arrangement whereby the authors can get copies for themselves at a

discount? I could use about twenty copies, I figure.

If you don't hear from me shortly, it means I approve of the materials you've sent me.

Again, thank you very much indeed.

Bob Shea
PO Box
319 Glencoe, IL 60022

Thanks, Bob. I can think of few higher compliments on our work than your letter.

Bob is currently publishing a 'zine of Illuminated Anarchism called *No Governor*. Copies can be obtained from him by sending \$2.00, or \$10.00 for a six-issue subscription. He's also willing to trade publications for it.

The latest issue is #11, with feature articles by Neil Steyskal, Neal Wilgus, letters, and a Robert Heinlein remembrance in addition to Bob Shea's prose.

More letters later...right now, for those who want to know more about this whole project, I'm reprinting the text from the first #1 (I've been calling it #0) about what *Illuminatus!* is, and how this comic came to be:

Some said that it would never happen...but *Illuminatus!* is finally here!

Of course, for some of us, it's already been around for quite a while. *Illuminatus!* was written by two Playboy editors, Robert J. Shea and Robert Anton Wilson in the late Sixties and early Seventies. They had been writing the Playboy Forum, and were receiving letters of a rather...strange nature. Some seemed to be from actual victims of persecution. These people referred to the Playboy Foundation for help. The others...

...the others described an extremely paranoid world, a world that could not possibly exist, wherein we were all being manipulated by unseen forces beyond our knowledge.

Shea and Wilson used these letters as the springboard for their *Illuminatus!* trilogy, wherein they described the most paranoid visions of the most corrupt government and insane society they could imagine.

Then came Watergate.

(For those of you who don't remember, the Watergate Scandal involved aides of President Nixon getting caught wire-tapping Nixon's political opponents and using the information to help Nixon's campaign. It ultimately led to Nixon's resignation from the Presidency. Shea and Wilson's paranoid fantasies were coming true!)

For several years, *Illuminatus!* was cached in the offices of Dell Publishers, waiting to be published. Finally, after several years and a

trimming of text, it reached book stores in the fall of 1975.

Meanwhile, in a comic/SF store in the mythical city of Kalamazoo, a Young Impressionable College Student (YIC for short) picked up a copy of the first volume in the trilogy. That incident would result in the eventual publication of this comic magazine.

Jump several years ahead. Bob Wilson's *Cosmic Trigger* has been published, which links the process of the Illumination to Learian psychology, Fullerian geometry and Crowleyan magic.

The YIC, not quite as young nor nearly as impressionable, has become involved with the first Quicksilver Club, drawn together by the Whizzard of Om. He'd been having experiences which seemed to involve entities from outside our space/time continuum, and was recently investigating Discordianism—, a religion which we will discuss further in future issues. For now, suffice to say that it is centered on the worship of Eris, Greek goddess of discord and confusion, and was revived in 1958 by Omar Khayyam Ravenhurst and Malaclypse the Younger, Keepers of the Sacred Chao. It forms a large part of the *Illuminatus!* story line.

The YIC was undergoing a period of rebirth that winter, and finally emerged a born-again Discordian, taking the sacred name of...*Icarus!*

The next quantum jump takes us to 1984, the year of Big Brother. We were recovering from the mighty battle with the minions of Beelzebub at the annual ELF-Fest, held by the Elf Lore Family, which the Whizzard had helped start. While there, Sir Ironrim of the Knights of the Falcon of Malta introduced us to members of the Heartland Pagan Association. The idea of doing an *Illuminatus!* comic adaptation had occurred to us by then, but outside of loose pacing breakdowns, nothing had been done to it.

HPA was to have Bob Wilson in Chicago later that summer to give a lecture on author James Joyce's works and how they correspond to quantum physics and the Three Stooges, and to facilitate a self-actualizing seminar.

I made the journey to meet Bob in August, and he had me contact his agent about the adaptation. Permission was granted to begin the project.

The easy part was over.

I began the preliminary steps by contacting five comic book publishers and letting them know the project was underway. Of the five, only one responded. It was the FIRST comics company that I thought might be interested, but still...getting only one response was dis-

pointing. And yet, it was not altogether discouraging, for I'd received a response from an interested publisher!

After a discussion with the interested editor (Codename: Appleris), it all seemed to boil down to me as the project leader, more or less because I'd contacted Shea and Wilson. Other established comics creators had suggested the project to Appleris before, but they hadn't taken the initiative to contact the original authors. I was encouraged by Appleris' response, and began the next step...the search for an artist!

Finding an artist turned out to be relatively easy. The owner of Buff's Book Store, a local comic book shop in Kalamazoo, was aware of the search and introduced me to several local artists. Among them was Eric Burza, a recent graduate of Western Michigan University. After looking at three pages of a full sketch book, I decided that if he wanted to do the pencilling on *Illuminatus!*, I would be very pleased to let him.

I had already been doing script breakdowns and had made rough character sketches based on my knowledge of the trilogy. Eric produced some beautiful renditions of the characters and prepared several sample pages.

Full of faith and hope, I called Appleris and set up an interview with him at his office north of Chicago.

I survived.

Appleris gave brief attention to my reams of script breakdowns and focused on the art. Comics are, after all, an *art* medium. I came out of the meeting with good advice on how to pace a story, put limits on dialogue, and pare down characters to a manageable level, along with lots of artistic suggestions for Eric. And one more thing—a firm, unshakeable belief that we *were* going to do this comic.

I began revising the script while Eric practiced his pencilling. At last we produced a version of the first issue which we hoped to show to Appleris at the Chicago Comicon that year. Unfortunately, Appleris didn't have time for us then, but we did get some good input from Mike Friedrich on story pacing. He suggested we repace the story, do a plot synopsis for the *entire* series, and redraw the first issue.

So we started over again.

In the meantime, I had shown Shea and Wilson our work (special thanks to Heartland for providing me with an operations base in Chicago) and began negotiating for that all-important item without which we could *not* succeed—a contract.

Based on my interviews, their agent (Al Zuckerman of Writer's House) came up with an agreement that Shea, Wilson and I could all agree on; we all signed.

We'll continue this story later...right now I'd like to do a few important updates.

Artist Eric Burza will be leaving the series with issue #3 to pursue other projects. Replacing him will be P. Eric Piccione, whose art graces the covers of this issue. Good luck, Eric B., and welcome Eric P.!

We are currently running a computer Bulletin Board system using software called Citadel. This software is enabling *Illuminatus!* fans around the country and in Canada to discuss the themes in the book, and express their feelings and opinions on various happenings in the book. In the future, we hope to get Bob Shea's comments on the board, provided we can find someone local to Glencoe, IL., who is willing to run a BBS for him to access.

The following list contains numbers for bulletin board systems (BBS's) which carry the *Illuminatus!* room.

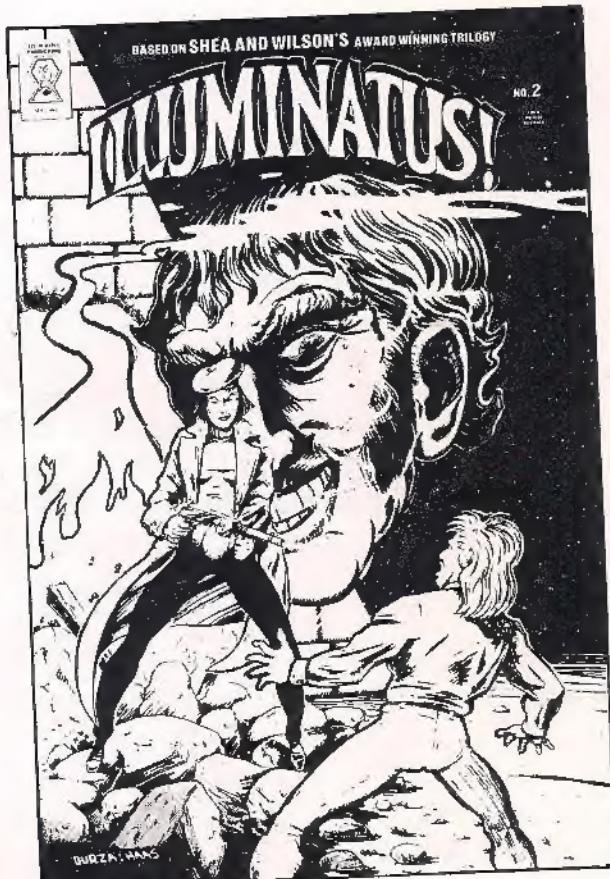
Arcadia MI	(616) 343-0413
Traders Outlet CT	(203) 324-9848
TechObsol NC	(919) 846-4038
Poopsie AB.CA	(403) 288-4981
The Quest IL	(217) 546-7608
Foundation MI	(616) 685-9611
Lunatic Haven AB.CA	(403) 526-6957
Thunder Island MI	(616) 685-6456

We are hoping to extend this network across the country as the comic progresses. We are negotiating with boards in Atlanta, California, Boston, Denver, New York and other places around the country to carry this room.

If you're interested in getting into this room, and there's a Citadel BBS in your area, help us out by asking the Sysop to pick up this room. The main backbone for it is Arcadia (listed above), so give the Sysop there a call, or send him net-mail!

Mark Philip Steele

NEXT in ILLUMINATUS! ISSUE TWO!



George Dorn gets busted out of jail, and has an exciting time on the beach. Then he meets one of the masterminds of the convoluted Illuminati plot. Plus, learn more about Simon Moon, tantric Zen master!

fnord

